GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

JAYALALITHA Speaks

Volume - III

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A Collection of speeches of

Puratchi Thalaivi

Dr. J. JAYALALITHA

CHIEF MINISTER OF TAMIL NADU

Department of Information and Public Relations
Government of Tamil Nadu

JAYALALITHA SPEAKS *Volume - III*

A Collection of speeches of Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha,

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

We are happy to bring out the third volume of the book titled, **"Jayalalitha Speaks"**, which is a compendium of speeches delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Puratchi Thalaivi Dr.J.Jayalalitha** at various Government functions, during June 1993 and June 1994.

This collection also, as in the first and second volumes, projects the administrative philosophy and political will of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. J. Jayalalitha** with special emphasis on welfare measures for the people, the State's rights, inter-state relationship, etc.

We thank our Hon'ble Chief Minister for having permitted us to publish this book which will, we have no doubt, as the previous volumes, be widely welcomed by book lovers all over India, as a rich treasure house of resource material on a variety of subjects.

R. Sampath, I.A.S.,
Director,
Information and
Public Relations Department,
Government of Tamil Nadu.

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EFFORTS ON TO MAKE TAMIL NADU A PREMIER INDUSTRIAL STATE IN THE COUNTRY

I have great pleasure in meeting you, the Leaders of Industry, once again, on the occasion of the inauguration of this Seminar on "Industrial Opportunities in Tamil Nadu". I would deem this to be a continuation of the process of discussion that I had initiated, soon after my Government assumed office, two years ago. Interaction of this kind has greatly helped us to take stock of the progress made, and also to prepare ourselves for the future. I am sure that these discussions will also help the Government to forge pragmatic and constructive policies, which can become the foundation for concerted action.

Let me begin by congratulating the award winners for their dedicated and commendable performance on a variety of fronts. We need many more examples of such heartening efforts, so that they may become worthy models for others to emulate, and help others strive to attain higher peaks of excellence.

All of you are aware that the State of Tamil Nadu has many advantages to offer to enterprising investors. Besides a congenial industrial and labour climate, Tamil Nadu can rightfully claim to possess a large reservoir of highly skilled and productive human resources.

The peaceful law and order situation that prevails in Tamil Nadu, when compared to the turmoil that many other States are experiencing, is a source of positive encouragement to any potential investor. In terms of the development of needed infrastructure, Tamil Nadu is ranked third in the country. We have

drawn up ambitious plans to focus on achieving a massive increase in power generation capacity, with private participation.

Three projects at a total estimated cost of Rs.4,200 crore, have been proposed for implementation as a matter of highest priority. In addition, a mega project costing Rs.7000 crore, which is an integrated mining and power generation project, has been taken up in the joint sector. As you know - and you ought to be very happy about it - there is currently no power cut in Tamil Nadu, and it will be our endeavour to maintain this happy position in future too.

Similarly, investment in water supply and sanitation is proposed, for a sum of Rs.1,450 crore in the Eighth Plan, as a vital input into the State's industrial infrastructure. In the case of other relevant parameters like industrial output, value-addition, cumulative loan sanctions and disbursements from All India Financial Institutions, Tamil Nadu occupies a significantly high position at the All India level. Small Scale Industries, in particular, have been registering an annual compound growth rate of 15.25%, which is one of the highest in the country.

Our All India share in exports is estimated to be around 12.5%, and our State enjoys significant leadership in the manufacture of items like leather products, ready made garments and textiles, marine products, engineering goods etc. I am mentioning these, only to underline the vibrant industrial climate in our State, and the quality of entrepreneurship that the investors have exhibited.

The Nation has embarked upon far-reaching economic reforms that will open a new era of liberalisation. The Central Government has initiated a number of measures, which are aimed at providing the needed stimulus to economic growth, and the States cannot afford to lag behind. The Tamil Nadu Government has also taken

up a number of steps, mainly intended to provide the much needed thrust, in the matter of rapid industrialisation.

The main responsibility in this regard has come upon the State Governments, because they have to provide the necessary industrial climate and the infrastructure, so that Industrialists in the private sector can avail of the opportunities offered, and proceed to set up new industries. The policy of liberalisation means enlarging the area of decontrol. It means doing away with cumbersome bureaucratic procedures. It involves the promotion of the private sector, as a matter of deliberate economic and social policy. It also signifies the effort to lay stress on efficiency in production and productivity. It also involves the recognition of the need to train and retrain labour, with a view to equipping it fully for the challenging tasks of global competition. Keeping all these in view, I announced in January, 1992, the New Industrial Policy of Tamil Nadu, which embodies a wide ranging package of fiscal and other related incentives, with a view to providing the needed congenial climate for industrial growth and an entrepreneur-friendly environment.

Specialised agencies such as the Tamil Nadu Corporation for Industrial Infrastructure Development (TACID) and the Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance and Export Promotion Bureau (GUIDANCE) have been set up for the purpose of accelerating infrastructure development, and for providing escort services.

GUIDANCE was set up as a nodal agency a year ago, to help potential investors. It has compiled a wide range of useful information, relevant to entrepreneurs, which is available on user-friendly floppy diskettes.

A similar exercise has been carried out, to facilitate understanding of export documentation, and related aspects such

as export financing, packaging, risk coverage, etc. I am glad that this export diskette, which provides comprehensive guidance for the exporting community, is being released today at this Seminar.

TACID, on its part, has been actively pursuing the growth centre approach, and has taken up the establishment of three industrial growth centres, under the Government of India scheme.

In the State sector, it has initiated the development of an industrial growth centre at Bargur in Dharmapuri District and an Agro Industrial Estate at Nilakottai in Dindigul-Anna District. Another major project taken up by TACID is the upgradation of infrastructural facilities at Tiruppur, which has emerged as a major export centre. This project is expected to cost Rs.200 crore.

These are but a few examples of the general direction in which we are focusing our efforts. As a matter of policy, in general, we welcome new investment.

In particular, I would like to invite investment in areas where we have a competitive edge and advantage. Some of these have already been spelt out in the New Industrial Policy as Thrust Areas. I would like to draw special attention to sectors like leather products, textiles and garments, auto parts and electronics, to mention a few. Investment in Mega projects, which can act as "mother industries" for development, would get all our support from the Government. These can become the focal points for new industrial and investment efforts.

Taking off logically from the economic reforms underway in the country, we are in the process of creating an investor-friendly climate, by setting up single window mechanisms for small scale entrepreneurs at the District level, endowed with statutory powers. We are also taking up legislation for the creation of industrial

development authorities, for designated areas and industrial estates, which would assume all powers to give requisite local body and related clearances.

This would go a long way in reducing the burden on entrepreneurs, and in allowing them to devote undivided attention to their projects.

We are not merely aiming at attracting investment from within the country. With the objective of encouraging foreign direct investment, particularly from Singapore, and the countries of the Pacific Rim, we have drawn up plans to set up a Trade Corridor, a dedicated facility called the "Madras Industrial Park".

It will serve the twin objectives of encouraging the inflow of capital (in hard currencies) and the introduction of new technologies into the domestic economy. It will also bring about improvement in technical and managerial skill levels. It will promote greater levels of competitiveness in the global market place through increased efficiency in manufacture. The Madras Industrial Park is an example of the concerted push that the Tamil Nadu Government is giving, towards achieving its aim of attracting foreign investment to the Industrial Park.

Situated on the out-skirts of Madras City, the Park will have infrastructural facilities comparable to any in the South East Asian Region, and will also have a special package of incentives, unique in the Indian context. The Park is targeted towards increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country, with valuable benefits to Tamil Nadu accruing in the process. The incentives which need to be offered, fall under the purview of both the State and the Central Governments. The State, on its part, will offer investors assistance, mainly in the areas of power supply, rapid State Level clearance and approval and infrastructural amenities.

It is only with the co-operation of the Central Government that significant progress can be registered in a State on the industrial front. In specific terms there is an urgent need for the Satellite Port at Ennore to be set up. This will enable the movement of coal into the State more easily, without which power generation would be adversely affected. Another major project is the Southern Gas Grid. We have been urging the Government of India for its early implementation. Besides boosting the availability of energy, it will also serve as a feed stock for chemical projects. I am happy to learn that the Government of India has issued the necessary approvals in this regard. I would like to urge the Government of India to expedite the further steps necessary to ensure the early implementation of this Project, which is so crucial to the industrial development of the Southern States.

While our performance on the industrial front has been impressive, we are keen to adopt all the necessary steps, not only to maintain our current position, but also to accelerate the pace of industrialisation, to make Tamil Nadu a premier industrial State in the Country. I do hope industrialists will reciprocate our efforts, with matching initiative and enthusiasm, as this is an endeavour in which all of us have our own designated roles to play. In the ultimate analysis, it is this synergy that will help us to scale new heights.

Before I conclude, I express the hope that the discussions in this Seminar will be constructive. In a Seminar like this, you must freely discuss the strengths and the weaknesses, and the opportunities for growth in Tamil Nadu, and advise us on the strategies to be adopted to stimulate growth. I eagerly look forward to receiving a package of useful recommendations from all of you.

Inaugural address at the Seminar on Industrial Opportunities in Tamil Nadu at Madras on 23rd June, 1993.

IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO PUT TAMIL NADU HIGH ON THE MAP OF SPORTS IN INDIA

At the outset let me express my happiness to be able to preside over the first meeting of the newly constituted Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu today. I was keen that we should have, as Members of this Authority, eminent personalities who have been associated with the development of sports and games in our State. I know that all of you are actively associated with sports in our country. I thank you for accepting my invitation to be Members of this Authority. I have no doubt that, with your active participation, it should be possible for us to put Tamil Nadu high on the map of Sports in India. Sports and games are vital for the health and well-being of the nation, particularly of the youth. Sports and games help to mould the character and the personality of the young people and help them to flower as distinguished sons and daughters of the nation. Sports and games bring people together, nations together and make us forget differences. One can say that there is hope for the future through the instrumentality of sports and games.

My Government is vitally interested in the development of sports and games in Tamil Nadu. I want our young men and women to rise to heights of glory in the sports and games arena, not only at the national level but also at the international level. I want to give our budding talents all the necessary facilities and opportunities, so that they can blossom as the finest flowers in the field of sports and games. You are aware of my interest in this connection. You know how, at my instance, we built the magnificent Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Madras within a record time of just seven months. With the establishment of this exquisite

stadium, it is now possible for us to conduct international events at Madras.

We must put this stadium to better use and it should become the focal point for young people to gather and display their sporting skills. I would be happy if you can offer your suggestions to achieve the full utilisation of this stadium. In the coming few months, we should draw up plans for the conduct of one or two International Meets at this stadium, which will be a source of great inspiration for our sportsmen and women and the sports loving public of the State.

It is also necessary to develop a positive and conducive atmosphere for the growth of sports and games in the districts and in the rural areas. We have some stadia in the districts, but I am told that the facilities are far from adequate. We have to draw up detailed plans and programmes for identifying youthful talents in the rural areas and for giving them sustained training, so that they can come up to the requirements of national and international standards. The cost of training programmes, cost of provision of adequate nutrition, equipment, etc. should be funded by this Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, so that talented young men and women as well as school children can get trained in a perfected atmosphere and can concentrate on the development of their skills.

We would like to have a stadium with a swimming pool and an indoor stadium in each one of the district headquarters. We now have stadia in 14 districts, swimming pools in 3 districts and indoor stadia in 4 districts. We hope to provide these facilities in the remaining districts in a phased manner. I would like all the Sports Organisations and Associations of our State to work in unison with the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, with the common

objective of identifying and developing sporting talent among our young people. We should also get the benefit of external assistance by way of gifts and donations of sports equipment, sports gear and the like, for the benefit of the young people. International sports and games are extremely competitive. We have all the requisite talent in our country.

We are required to spot it and develop it in a scientific manner. We have great potential in our youth. If need be, we will have to get expert coaches from foreign countries to train our young people. The Tamil Nadu State Government is prepared to take all these steps. For my part, I would like to assure you that I will certainly provide all the resources for this purpose.

It is for you to come up with concrete schemes which we can implement under the aegis of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, and carve out a distinct niche for Tamil Nadu in the annals of National and International Sports.

Opening remarks at the first meeting of the
Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu at Secretariat, Madras,
on 10th July 1993

UNIVERSITY WOULD AWAKEN THE MIND AND THE SPIRIT OF THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY

I am obliged to you for the honour you have conferred upon me by inviting me to address this special Convocation of the Madurai Kamaraj University being held in connection with its Silver Jubilee. I thank His Excellency the Governor, Chancellor of this University, for inviting me to share your happiness on this special occasion. A span of 25 years may be short in the history of an Institution. But for all of you who have been closely connected with the fortunes of this University and have made notable contributions to its development, I am sure that this occasion has a special significance, for, it gives you an opportunity to evaluate the performance of this University in terms of the goals set at its inception.

The name of the Madurai Kamaraj University combines in itself the name of the City of Madurai and the name of the great leader Thiru K. Kamaraj. Such an appropriate naming by itself has enhanced the reputation of this University and has contributed to its historicity as well as its character as a nation - building Institution. Madurai is one of the few cities in India with a history which can be traced back to pre-historic times. The earliest reference to the City, which are found in works like the puranas establish the antiquity of the City. The Great Epics like the Ramayana and the Mahabharatha, Kautiliya's Arthashastra and the writing of the ancient greeks like Megasthenes, refer to the City of the Pandiyas noted for its fine cotton fabrics and gems. Mahavamsa, the Ceylonese Chronicle, mentions the reign of the Pandiya King with Madurai as his capital just after the Buddha

Mahanirvana and this may be around the Sixth Century B.C. Plini in A.D.75 and Ptolemy in A.D.130 mentioned the city of the Pandiyas.

Madurai City attained the pinnacle of glory during the Sangam Age. For hundreds of years during this period, Madurai flourished as a great Centre of learning, culture and civilisation. Illustrious Poets of the Tamil Academy, known as the Sangam, have made memorable contributions to the growth of Tamil Literature. Madurai Kanchi (மதுரைக் காஞ்சி) the longest poem in the Pathupattu (பத்துப்பாட்டு) collection, contains an impressive pen portrait of the City of Madurai in the early centuries of the Christian era. Madurai City itself, during this period, was the Town Planners' dream. Its people lived and carried on normal avocations in an atmosphere of peace, prosperity, culture, learning and religiosity. From pre-Christian times, Madurai City maintained trade and commerce links with Sumeria, Babylon, Arabia, Egypt, Greece and Rome. The grandeur and beauty of the art and the architecture and the high eminence of culture in the lives of the people of the city, rightly earned for Madurai the epithet "the Athens of South India". Madurai was a great centre of learning as is seen from the impressive evidence of literary achievements. Madurai was also an international metropolis with economic and cultural contacts with Kingdoms of yore.

I am sure, It will now be right for me to say that the Madurai Kamaraj University is seeking to re-establish the pre-eminence of Madurai City as an international Centre of learning, combining the modern and the traditional in harmonious proportions.

Kamaraj is a name to reckon with. A legend in his own time, Thiru K. Kamaraj was an outstanding example of a person who could mould and shape the destiny of a society, based on a keen

sense of political perception and a high degree of realism. He was a man of the masses in the true sense of the term and he knew what they wanted and accordingly, he formulated policies reflecting the needs and the aspirations of the people. he contributed a great deal to the cause of education in our State. He foresaw that education opened the doors for employment and all round advancement and so he was keen that the benefits of education must be made available to the poorest of the poor and must not be merely the prize possession of a limited class of affluent people. Today, millions of people all over the State owe their advancement to his prophetic vision. If, today, the State of Tamil Nadu can claim to possess one of the largest reservoirs of technical and educated man-power in the country, the credit for the planning of and the thrust towards "free education" must be given to Perunthalaivar Kamaraj. However, it was Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. who brought free education within the reach of the poorest of children through his Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme, which ensured at least one nutritious meal a day to every child, and persuaded poor parents to send their children to school.

Higher Education in our country, today, is at the cross-roads. We are confronted by many problems. Many learned bodies have looked into the various issues and have made useful recommendations. But, successive Governments have been slow in implementing them. Quite often they are half-hearted in their approach. As a result, they are playing with the lives of young people. Any further delay in providing clear solutions to the existing problems will definitely place the future of our society in peril.

Historically, right education in our country has been considered a pre-requisite for right living. The search for higher values utilised the educational process to pick the right talent and teach the best

to the student, eliciting the best from him or her. It also laid stress on the right conduct expected of a student and the development of good and correct character. Education was meant to uplift the students so that he or she matured in spiritual perception and learnt the values of sacredness of life and sanctity of nature, subduing his or her ego and giving his or her best to Society. There is a story in the Upanishads according to which Narada approached Sanatkumara and asked him to teach him. Sanatkumara wanted to know what the disciple had already learnt. Narada said that he had learnt Science, Chemistry, Astronomy, Astrology, Physics and other subjects. Sanatkumara replied that he had not learnt anything, meaning thereby that the objective or aim of Education was to look for the Unknown. The teacher and the student were considered to be embarked upon a journey in search of Truth, whether it concerned the material world or the spiritual world. Pascal reflected this feeling, when he wrote:

> "Knowledge is like a sphere in space, the greater its volume, the greater its conduct with the unknown"

The people of Tamil Nadu had truly unique traditions with regard to learning and education. For them the values of education were intimately associated with the values of life. Education that did not make a man live properly, was not considered to be useful education. Two thousand years ago Saint Thiruvalluvar laid down the maxims of learning, even as the Tamil people then practised them, and they are relevant even today.

Thiruvalluvar said:

> "Lore that must be learnt must be learnt with perfect faultlessness. The students must not stop there having learnt. The student must tread the path that the lore has shown in turn"

கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை; கற்றபின்
நிற்க அதற்குத் தக

The sage also said:

"Learning leads to wisdom. Deeper as the man learns, more profound will be his wisdom and this wisdom is meant for the welfare of the society and not for his personal aggrandisement"

தொட்டனைத் தூறும் மணற்கேணி; மாந்தர்க்குக்
கற்றனைத் தூறும் அறிவு

Saint Thiruvalluvar spoke of the Art of Letters as well as the Science of Numbers and considered both of them to be important to the learning process.

"Learning promotes discrimination and discrimination makes possible the absorption of the good and the exclusion of the bad. Such learning is more precious than all the material values of this world because wealth decays whereas learning does not".

கேடில் விழுச்செல்வம் கல்வி; ஒருவருக்கு
மாடல்ல மற்றை யவை

Education was thus ideally structured and incorporated to meet life's needs. The ancient Tamil people knew the distinction between basic education and the education that gave scholarship. The final aim of the learning process was to enable the student to improve his faculty of discrimination, eschew improper conduct, understand and appreciate the good values of life and develop love and kindness towards all fellow-beings. Saint Thiruvalluvar aimed at general social education as a means of building an ideal society. The Thirukkural has come to represent the summation of the best in the tradition of Tamil Education.

The present structure of higher education in India, had its origin in the British Model, when the First Universities were established

in India in 1857. The main purpose of University Education, as it was considered then, was to confer the benefits of a liberal education on a few chosen students, so that a small number of persons cultivated in the art and the classical lore of the world could be trained to provide leadership for the community and to take their place in the administrative machinery of the country. A chosen few would enter the portals of the University and would be groomed to help the British run the administration and to get along with them in the same atmosphere of culture, literature and social grace. The task of managing the administration was left to be handled by a large majority of educated people who would fill in the ministerial posts. But the British did not foresee that the very liberal education, which they sought to provide through the University, would awaken the mind and the spirit of the millions of people in this country and that they would use the very same education to dislodge them from power. Education is a powerful tool. Its impact and influence cannot be confined to set goals and objectives within a given ambit. It kindles the mind and strikes deep chords; it arouses the emotions and provides a better means of articulation. It moulds the human mind, it inculcates a culture and a philosophy which will help the student to search for values in a spirit of freedom, unhindered by the syllabus or curriculum irrespective of the mode of teaching or the scholarship of the teacher. This is a lesson of history which we will have to learn and relearn in order that we may keep our minds open and continue to look at the structure of education so that it helps to fulfil the aspirations of young people and does not hinder them.

This means that we have to ask afresh the following questions:

What should be the nature of a University?

What is its purpose?

In what manner should it play its part in the life of the community?

What should be its role with reference to the rising tide of democratic aspirations and egalitarian pressures?

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, way back in 1947, in his Convocation Address to the University of Allahabad, summed up the basic objectives of the University and its role in national life. He said:

> "University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the search of Truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards ever higher objectives. If the Universities today discharge their duties adequately, then they are wholly with the nation and the people"

Our Universities, therefore, were basically intended to promote a spirit of liberal education and were concerned with creating a class of men whose education equipped them with certain qualifications and attributes of mind and heart, necessary for assuming the mantle of leadership.

Developing from these basic objectives, the Universities have concentrated mainly on three functions, namely, education, scholarship and service. In the earlier times, the educative and scholarly functions dominated the activities of the University. In the complex technological society of today, the service functions have grown enormously and the educational and scholarly functions have come increasingly closer to the service function. In other words, the University provides Society with experts and expertise. University Education is oriented towards helping the students to

acquire mastery in the field of technology. In this era of competition, the University has also to be in the forefront of excellence in the teaching-learning process, so that a generation of students representing the cream of the intelligentsia can pioneer and bring about change and transformation in different areas of national life.

Notwithstanding the complex nature of the above - mentioned goals, in a sophisticated sense, the University will still be a community of intellectuals, of teachers and the taught, ceaselessly engaged in the pursuit of knowledge. It will be a select exclusive group of persons concerned totally with the leading issues in today's cultural milieu. However, with the great growth in the corpus of human knowledge and the tremendous impact of science and technology on the lives of men, it has become necessary to conceive of this milieu in quite new terms and to think of the University in entirely new ways. Whatever concept we develop of a University, it must be relevant to the context and the needs of our country not merely of the present, but of the future as well. Gandhiji, Sri Aurobindo, Rabindranath Tagore and other great leaders of our country had suggested varying models of University education, keeping in view the need to develop the mental and moral faculties of the individual, which would enable him or her to contribute to the welfare of the nation in the context of Science - Technology interaction. It is necessary to look at all these models and evolve a pattern that harmoniously welds the past, present and the future and gives the University its due place in Society as a leader, a path-breaker and an experimenter and as the upholder of certain basic values.

At the same time, the University has to continue the teaching-learning process. The highest quality of teaching

materials must be made available at the University. Excellence in the teaching-learning process and in the performance or achievement in higher education is totally dependent upon the quality of the students. The pursuit of excellence in turn is motivational. Proper inputs of human and material elements into higher educational in terms of adequate infrastrutural facitlities, efficient teaching, efficient administration, commitment to learning, smooth and effective interaction between students, teachers and the administrators; all these are envisaged by the use fo the term 'excellence'. When we speak of quality higher education, we think of a situation wherein the teaching-learning process reaches a very high level of performance and motivation. There can be no compromise with quality conceived in this manner, because Society pays a high price for education and there ought to be a commensurate return in the form of performance and service to Society. Unfortunately, this aspect is largely ignored. Nowadays, the emphasis is on the quantity, the numbers of those educated. At the level of higher education, the emphasis ought to be on the quality of those educated, because the University will bring forth the future leaders of Society. In the era of Science and Technology, this means that the products of the Universities will have to be in the forefront of all branches of learning. Therefore, quality ought to be the pre-eminent goal. However, the students have a different expectation from the Universities. To most of them, a University degree is a passport to a good job. Hence they expect the University to teach them in such a way as to enable them to secure jobs. But, it does not happen that way, in actual practice. The performance of the University does not match with the needs of the students or of the community. Therefore, there is frustration on all sides. Mr. Will Durant has expressed this feeling aptly:

> "The youth is wise in preferring the athletic field to the class- room and in rating base-ball above philosophy.

> When a bespectacled Chinese student described the American University as 'an athletic association in which certain opportunities for study are provided for the feeble bodied,' his remark was not so destructive as is supposed."

Will Durant was speaking of the American student. In India, the Indian youth does not even prefer the athletic field!

Youth is an impressionable period in a person's life. There is much to look forward to at that stage in life. The spirit of idealism is dominant. Concepts of right and wrong rank high in the scale of values. The attitude of service comes naturally. As yet, passion and prejudice do not overtake the sense of reason and objectivity. The mental faculties are at their best and there is a desire to be discriminating. There is an instinctive thirst for knowledge. The tapping of such abundant energies as Youth displays naturally, is the major responsibility of Society and Society looks to the University to provide an atmosphere, in which the talents of the young people can be nurtured and promoted. But frustration and disappointment soon set in as the University is ill-equipped for handling this responsibility. Let us admit that the Universities in our country, as they are structured at present, do not seem to be reflecting the aspirations of young people. They appear to be straight-jacketed with a structure of their own and a logic of thinking and working that alienates, rather than absorbs the student's interest. Nor do the Universities seem to be in the mainstream of life, so that they can serve to make life more meaningful, more attractive and more socially useful. I am making a general statement in this regard and do not have any particular University in mind while saying this. This problem has to be looked into with the utmost seriousness. University Education in India is now facing severe social and political criticism. The Universities

have got to recognise sooner or later that national realities have to be properly reflected, both in the structure of their instructions and in their value systems as well as in the mode of their functioning.

Take for example the straight forward problem of unemployment among the educated. It is clear that this problem is of our own making. Today the University degree is sought after, for its value as a source of obtaining employment. But the employment hoped for does not exist. The student does not realise it until after he or she has left the portals of the University. Young people rush to take University degrees with the hope of thereby getting jobs in the Government or in the Private Sector. Jobs in the Government for the kind of people whom the Universities are producing will be limited. The Private Sector adopts methods of selection that will not benefit the vast majority of the students armed with mere degrees. The resultant situation is an alarming increase in the rate of unemployment of educated persons - a frustrating situation for the students and a bitter waste of national effort. Today, there are more than 38 lakh young persons registered in the Employment Exchanges of Tamil Nadu, of whom 22 lakh persons are educated. Every year about 5 lakh educated persons register themselves with the Employment Exchanges, of whom 1.41 lakh young persons have passed the Pre-University course or its equivalent and about nearly a lakh of persons are graduates and post-graduates. The Registers of the Employment Exchanges do not really fully reflect the gravity of the situation. The problem of unemployment among the technically qualified young people is equally severe, a true reflection of the rate of economic growth that is taking place in our country. I am sure that the picture must be more or less the same in other States. This raises the basic question about what kind of education the Universities should impart, so that there is no drain of resources and avenues

of employment are always available and young persons can enter smoothly into the mainstream of life with dignity and confidence. Naturally, the society that we are developing in India today, offers a number of jobs for which a degree is not a prerequisite and for which high academic or technological qualifications are not necessary. I think that the time has come for us to look at University education in the context of the employment situation in the country and clarify the goal of the Universities in this regard. I think that the model which envisages the Univesities as a job producing factory is wrong. To equip the young people with skills for the jobs that our country offers, must be the function of a different set of institutions. This truth must be accepted at the earliest and the reforms must start at the elementary school level.

The Kothari Commission and the New Education Policy of the Government of India have, no doubt made many recommendations in this regard. But the Universities continue to produce young graduates whose employment opportunities depend on further technological training, for which other institutions are needed. It seems to me that the answer is that the Universities should not be saddled with the responsibility of producing more graduates, for the purpose of satisfying the ego of the society, in terms of increasing the output of educated persons. The requirements of employment in a fast changing society would have to be met by suitable institutions other than the Universities. Higher Education does contribute to employment, but at a different level. It makes no impact on the numbers. It confers its benefits in an indirect manner, by producing leaders, the teachers who will train the trainers. Also, in reality, we find that the problem of unemployment is more acute among the educated. Young educated persons feel frustrated by their inability to get the kind of employment that they are looking for. Educated young persons look for a particular type of employment and many of them

aspire for desk jobs, either in Government or in business. They seek a University degree, not because they are interested in the subject which they study, but because the degree is a necessary qualification for applying for jobs in the Government, business, banking etc. But, there are not enough jobs in these sectors to absorb all the graduates coming out of the Universities. I am, therefore, reiterating my plea that a radical change in the outlook towards University education is called for.

Personally I would think that an important concern of the Universities, particularly, of the technological institutions which come within the ambit of the Universities, should be to motivate students to start enterprises of their own. Self- employment can, in many ways, be more exciting and more rewarding than the service of an employer. Self-employment can be secured through small scale industries where the individual's talents can be put to full use. India is set on a course of rapid industrialisation which opens out avenues for new employment. It should be the responsibility of the Universities to explore these new avenues of employment and help the students to fit themselves into them. The higher educational system can help to infuse self- confidence in our graduates. Infusion of the right amount of self-confidence generates a sense of responsibility and discipline, so vital for the orderly progress of the nation. In this connection, there is a need for critical examination of the way in which the University education process is currently conducted. The curriculum and the mode of instruction have to be carefully evaluated and redesigned, so as to absorb the latest knowledge of the subject and its dissemination.

The teaching faculties have to play an important role in the higher education system. All education is a dialogue between the teacher and the taught. The aim of the teacher is to strive for the excellence of the student and to instill in him or her the correct

sense of values. It is not so much the repertory of knowledge that finally counts, it is the motivation and personality of the teacher that provides the fuel that ignites the mind of the student. The high quality of mind and intellect is a very important pre-requisite for the success of the teaching process. The issue is not one of the payment of adequate salaries or rewards. It is the problem of the availability of a sufficient number of qualified persons, who want to take up the task of teaching as a labour of love, as a social mission, as an act of patriotism, as an intellectual pursuit which will help to widen the horizon of learning of both the student and the teacher in their common pursuit.

I must tell you that the Tamil Nadu Government has been concerning itself with the problems of higher education in their entirety. The State Government has set up the 'Tamil Nadu State Council For Higher Education' on a statutory basis with the Chief Minister as the Chairperson, inaugurating the Council, I said:

> "There is a compelling need to pursue the goals which will make our educational system keep pace with the phenomenal growth witnessed in other countries. Scientific pursuits have to concentrate upon the acquisition of knowledge upon knowledge, such that the new discoveries and improvements can directly contribute to the material welfare of mankind."

I stressed the need for upgrading the skills of the teachers and for inculcating the sense of discipline in the students and called upon the research worker to make a significant contribution to the social and economic transformation of our society. This Council has begun to function just recently. I hope this Council will play an important role in prompting co-operation among the institutions of higher education, encourage and promote innovations in

curriculum development, facilitate higher training of teachers, identify and encourage centres of excellence and help to promote the highest standards of education consistent with the best obtaining in the world.

I know that the Madurai Kamaraj University has established laudable traditions in the teaching learning process. It has produced eminent teachers and students who have done well in their area of specification all over the world. I also know that the Madurai Kamaraj University continues to reaffirm the importance of basic values essential to our society. Without the right understanding and acceptance of basic values, learning, however advanced, can be arid and bereft of purpose.

On the occasion of the Special Convocation of the Madurai Kamaraj University, I have great pleasure in conveying my good wishes to all of you who have won laurels and victory in the Battle of Books. Now there lies before you a greater Battle-the Battle of Life. The world you are about to enter is full of difficulties and challenges. You will see all around you a ceaseless drive in pursuit of limited values. You will feel the impact of varied human passions and prejudices. You will have to face new problems which will perplex you. However, there is no need for pessimism. You have received an intellectual and mental formation during your studentship, that will help you to face the coming Battle of Life with courage and confidence. You can now face the world head on and fight successfully to win the Battle of Life. My one piece of advice to you is:

Please be receptive to new ideas and learn to depend on yourself.

Great leaders like Perunthalaivar K.KAMARAJ and Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.M.G.R. came up in life this way.

I thank His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu once again for his invitation to me, to address this Special Convocation. I would now like to close with a quotation from H.W. Longfellow:

In the world's broad field of battle,
 In the bivouac of life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
 Be a hero in the strife!
Trust no future, how'er pleasant!
 Let the dead past bury its dead!
Act in the living Present!
 Heart within, and God o' erhead!
Lives of great men all remind us
 We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
 Footprints on the sands of time.

On this happy occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Madurai - Kamaraj University, I understand that the University is planning to construct a new building, a Conference Hall, in commemoration of the completion of its Silver Jubilee. I have great pleasure in announcing a personal donation of 5 lakh rupees, as my contribution to the Building Fund of the University, for its new Silver Jubilee Conference Hall. I request the Vice Chancellor of the Madurai - Kamaraj University, Dr. Kuthalingam, to kindly receive the cheque.

Convocation Address at the special convocation of Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai on 14th July 1993.

JAYANKONDAM LIGNITE POWER PROJECT - 'A DREAM COME TRUE'

I am happy to welcome all of you today to this important ceremony. The presence of eminent Industrialists of our Country and Representatives of Leaders of Industry from Germany, augurs well for the success of the Jayankondam Lignite Power Project. For me, in a sense, this occasion is a 'dream come true'. About two years ago when I first conceived of this project, there were many hurdles to overcome. Even conceptually, a project of such large dimensions, involving mining and power generation in an integrated manner, was hard to conceive for many reasons, including technological, managerial and financial reasons.

The project called for a change in the Industrial Policy of the Government of India, in so far as allowing mining by the Private Sector was concerned. Also, notwithstanding the liberalisation of economic policies ushered in by the Government of India, not many large houses, both in India and other countries, expressed much interest in projects of this size. One by one we have overcome these problems. The fact that Leaders of Industry from Germany have come forward to put in equity in this project, is an indication of their trust and confidence, not only in the soundness of our economy, but also in our capability to put through a project of this dimension.

I also wish to assure you that your confidence in us is fully justified. Tamil Nadu has a very good record in industrial development, in technological education, in the development of industrial infrastructure and in the presence of a milieu that is conducive to growth.

Above all, we have political stability and perfect law and order conditions in our State, which are by themselves sufficient to attract investors, to participate in our development effort.

We are poised for a big leap on the industrial front, but power supply has become critical. We have more or less exhausted our hydel resources. The future of power generation in our State, will depend increasingly on thermal and nuclear resources. As regards the thermal resources, since we have to move coal from long distances, we will have to depend more and more on lignite resources, which are locally available. Hence, we have placed the highest emphasis on the tapping of the vast lignite deposits within our State for power generation, and would, therefore, like to give high priority to the early completion of this Jayankondam Lignite Power Project.

Exploitation of lignite resources has so far remained within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Government of India, but then I took up the issue and at my initiative, the Government of India cleared the proposal of allowing mining by the State Governments and by the Private Sector.

We then decided that we should encourage Private Sector initiative in the twin tasks of lignite mining and power generation. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation, as the nodal agency for industrial development in our State, thereafter decided to enter into a partnership with Mr. B.M. Khaitan and others for developing this project in the Joint Sector.

The Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is one of the best undertakings of its kind in the Country. It has executed massive power projects and has a creditable record in power generation and distribution.

I understand that the Jayankondam Lignite Power Project will be the largest in Asia. It will be the first of its kind providing integrated development in this field. It is being planned in an innovative way, involving the Private Sector. There may be some teething problems but I am sure, given the goodwill between the Co-promoters and their commitment to this project, we can solve the problems quickly.

I look forward to your co-operation. I would like to assure you that the State Government is vitally committed to this Project and therefore, will extend all the help necessary for its speedy implementation.

Speech delivered on the occasion of the signing of the agreement for Jayankondam Lignite Power Project at Secretariat, Madras on 27th August, 1993

TAMIL NADU COMMITTED TO MAXIMISATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE IN DEVELOPMENT

This meeting of the National Development Council has been convened to discuss reports of the Committees of this Council particularly those involving certain key social sectors. This is timely as the country has recently witnessed a definite setback in the interventions in the social sectors. Many States have not been able to achieve their approved plan outlay in 1992-93 and have suffered a real decline in social sector expenditure. Tamil Nadu stands out as one of the few States which has not only considerably exceeded its approved plan outlay in 1992-93 but has in fact improved its effort in real terms in the social sectors, whether it is food and nutrition, primary education, primary health care or family welfare. We have in Tamil Nadu established a new track record of exceeding planned development outlays and at the same time extending a comprehensive social safety net for the poor. This has not been an easy task given the rigours of the stabilisation and structural adjustment process.

We are indeed apprehensive that we may not able to protect this record in view of certain disquieting trends in Centre-State fiscal relations. Resource flows to the States have stagnated. No facility has been provided to the States to adjust to the compelling discipline imposed by the fiscal situation. State Governments being closer to the people have traditionally played the major role in the social sectors. It is a matter of considerable disquiet that while on the one hand we talk of fiscal autonomy to local bodies and their empowerment, on the other hand, the State

Governments are unable to even protect basic services for the poor. In response to the criticism of the decline in social sector outlays in 1992-93 the effort should be to empower the States to invest more in these sectors. On the contrary what we observe is more direct Central involvement in these sectors. May I suggest that instead of the Centre drawing up programmes in these sectors with external aid, States may be given an adjustment facility based on external aid allowing them to formulate and implement comprehensive State specific plans for the social sectors? Segmented implementation plans drawn up by the Centre with considerable wastage of resources and lack of a State specific focus in the social sectors are best avoided. This is also in consonance with the spirit of the decision of this Council in December 1991 that there shall be a progressive shift of Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States in the Eighth Plan. This should not be reversed by the Centre initiating externally aided projects and implementing them virtually as Centrally sponsored programmes.

The recommendations of the Committees on Employment, Population, Literacy and Micro level planning and involvement of people at the grass root level are, by and large, unexceptionable. But States can move ahead only if they are empowered with adequate authority and resources to do so. It is in this context that I have highlighted the dismal fiscal situation confronting the States and the need for strengthening the States in taking new initiatives in these key areas.

This is an appropriate occasion to discuss how the potential of the Indian economy can be unleashed generating greater employment and promoting the welfare of the people. In the wake of the stabilisation and structural adjustment process the

unemployment situation has been exacerbated. We have to seek quickly a higher growth rate for the economy to set right the negative trends that have crept in. The recent Chinese experience with South China pushing ahead should be studied and perhaps South India with a different set of macro economic parameters can lead the accelerated growth process. It is in this background that we have already presented our detailed plan for the Indo-Singapore Trade Corridor incorporating several innovative features. May I suggest immediate clearance for this major initiative?

The real test of the new economic policy lies in the ability to accelerate growth in such a manner as to provide massive employment. I would like to highlight the need for adequate flow of credit to small industrial units and the tiny sector. Mass employment will not be possible unless there is a new vibrancy in the credit flow to these sectors. State Financial Corporations have to be suitably strengthened, in order to enable them to play a leading role in the promotion of small scale and tiny sectors. Commercial Banks have to demonstrate a new dynamism in assessing and extending credit to village and small industries especially in the non farm sector. It is not essential that we bring in more Government supported schemes. What is important is that commercial banks bring in the right skills and the right attitude to handle the credit demand.

I have participated in the deliberations of the Committee on Population and the recommendations of the Committee are well worth adoption. In Tamil Nadu we have achieved remarkable success in reducing the crude birth rate and have shown the way for the rest of the country. This has been brought about by a conscious and well designed policy including integrated social

sector interventions adopted by the State. Unfortunately our success has no reward when it comes to resource flows. In fact our success in population limitation affects us adversely as a major chunk of Central resource flow under the amended Gadgil formula and market borrowings is based on the per capita income of States being below the national average. I would like to reiterate my suggestion made in the Council in December 1991 that the per capita income computation should also be on the basis of the 1971 population. This will be a powerful incentive to States to do well in population limitation. The existing performance incentive under the modified Gadgil formula and its computation is hardly a just reward for States which have done well.

There can be no two opinions about the need to push ahead aggressively and imaginatively to reach the goal of full literacy. We have prepared a major Rs.1200 crores project for key interventions in primary education and have requested that this project be posed to the World Bank. For reasons which are not at all clear to us we are being held back for the last two years. May I suggest that the Centre promote State specific initiatives in this sector? May I request that our primary education project be posed to the World Bank? The Committee has also suggested flexible approaches. Instead of all plans and guidelines being drawn up at Delhi, let us set the broad objectives in the Council and provide the States the resources to reach the goals. Surely our States with populations exceeding those of several countries in the world can be trusted to achieve much more given the resources and the responsibility.

I have no hesitation in endorsing the broad sweep of the recommendations of the committee on micro level planning. Unfortunately these recommendations are to be considered in a

scenario where many States have been compelled to severely cut their approved plan outlays. In Tamil Nadu we have embarked on decentralized development planning at the district level this year and provided united funds for the first time. We are also continuing the Self Sufficiency Programme where blocks have been empowered to take up their own development works. We shall ensure that the responsibility for initiating the planning process is adequately devolved on the local bodies at appropriate levels. Flexibility in the implementation of the recommendation of the Committee is a must as resource constraints often prove insurmountable. As always, we shall of course strive towards enlisting the full participation of the people in the programmes.

I have referred in detail to the issues raised by the Committee on Austerity at the last meeting of the Council. The report on follow up action indicates how difficult it is to reach a consensus on some of these issues. While fiscal discipline has to be the watchword we have to necessarily proceed cautiously. We have in Tamil Nadu embarked on a wide ranging plan to control the growth of unproductive public expenditure and also improve the resources of the State. We are however finding the situation extremely difficult. Small Savings collections have dropped off totally. May I suggest that as an interim measure for the current year at least, 90 per cent of the small savings collections be given to the States instead of the usual 75 per cent? We are dismayed to find that an agreed unanimous decision of the Centre and the States to levy consignment tax has been set aside by the Centre. It was very easily possible to get on with the levy of the Consignment tax and the States would have been too glad to cooperate in a mutually acceptable manner. I am quite surprised that a consensus on this levy which was forged by Shri Rajiv Gandhi should be so easily put into cold storage. Certain other measures like the value added

tax which will greatly erode the State's main resource base are also being discussed in great detail. When Centre-State resource flows are already stagnating certain suggestions to further roll back flows to the States are being made. We cannot help feeling uneasy at these developments which predicate a serious encroachment in the State's resources domain which are already quite limited.

The position report on the transfer of 113 Centrally Sponsored Schemes makes dismal reading. It seems there has been no real transfer of resources. We had assumed a sum of Rs.50 crores as the transfer to Tamil Nadu in 1993-94 at the time of finalisation of the State's Annual Plan outlay. We are in fact virtually getting nothing. The basic concept of the transfer is sought to be defeated in its implementation by showing most schemes as defunct. A fair amount of transfer and an equitable principle of transfer needs to be evolved. Also the spirit of the decision of this Council in December 1991 that there will be a gradual transfer of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the States in the Eighth Plan has been abandoned. New Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being introduced and there is no progressive shift of existing schemes with the associated resources. It is quite ironical that when we are considering sub state devolutions and micro level planning following the recommendations of the Committee of the Council, we are witnessing a growing centralization in the planning and implementation of schemes and programmes even in the social sector where States have always had the lead role. I do hope we can reverse this trend.

I have set out briefly our views on the main issues in the agenda before us. I wish to reiterate our total commitment to push ahead in the key social sectors which we are to discuss here

today. Maximisation of employment and full participation of the people in the development efforts are key initiatives. This Council will have to go into the disquieting trends in Centre-State financial relations which have emerged and reverse these trends. The States have stagnated in the last two years and their structural adjustment needs a special fiscal arrangement. We shall of course continue to place emphasis on austerity in expenditure to enable more resources to be made available for purposeful interventions to benefit the poor.

I do hope we can have meaningful discussions on the several important issues before us and reach conclusions which can be implemented in right earnest.

The speech read out at the National Development Council Meeting at New Delhi on 18th September, 1993

BHARATHANATTIYAM -ONE OF THE HIGHEST FORMS OF SPIRITUAL EXERCISE.

I deem it a great pleasure to be with you today and to deliver an address on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of *'Nrithyodhaya'.*

I must start with an offering of reverential homage to the memory of Thiru K. Subrahmanyam, Padma's father, who was the founder of *Nrithyodhaya* and a well known Film Producer and Director. He was an eminent personality in the film world. He was steeped in the tradition and culture of our country. He took a keen interest in the revival of the classical Arts. He was a true Nationalist whose vision of cultural renaissance encompassed the arts and culture of the entire country.

At the same time, he played a notable part in the cultural scenario of our own State, using the motion picture as his favourite medium of inter-cultural communication. He was at home both in music and dance. His keen sense of appreciation of the best in the classical tradition of music and dance of the South, and his desire to preserve them and make them available to society in their pristine form, led him to found 'Nrithyodhaya'.

Today, the contribution of *Nrithyodhaya* in the field of Classical Dance is well known. I know that many outstanding Gurus, Masters of Music and Dance, have served as the Teaching Faculty under the auspices of this Institution, and have been instrumental in spreading knowledge and appreciation of the classical arts amidst young people from far and near.

The good work begun by Thiru K. Subrahmanyam has been continued by Thiru V. Balakrishnan and Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, who have assumed the mantle of responsibility and have performed their tasks with sincere devotion and dedication. *Nrithyodhaya* has now become the symbol of all that is excellent in Bharathanattiyam. Everyone knows that the students of *Nrithyodhaya* bear a distinctive stamp; a stamp of quality; a stamp of character; a stamp of deep learning in the culture and tradition of our society.

I wish to congratulate Thiru Balakrishnan and Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam for their services to *Nrithyodhaya*; for their services to the world of Arts and Culture.

Institutions such as this, are not impersonal. They are shaped, moulded and motivated by the distinctive personality of their Makers. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that *Nrithyodhaya* has become synonymous with the name of Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam. And today, Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam's name is one to reckon with in the world of Arts, for her attainment in Indian classical dance. It is difficult indeed to praise her adequately in this regard. Many experts and critics of Bharathanattiyam have applauded her talents, her creativity and the uniqueness of her techniques. Padma has grown in a world full of dance, music and poetry. As you all know, the tradition of art runs in her family, but it is Padma's creative urge that compels our attention.

Her penchant for experiments led her to study the classical texts with admirable fervour, and to relate them to sculptural depictions. She has fused poetry with visuals. More than anything else, she has a dynamic quality which seems to ignite the

atmosphere around her. The quality of her art is the dedicated quality of a true artiste, raised to the highest spiritual level.

Today, Dr.Padma Subrahmanyam is a distinguished member of a select band of true artistes in the field of Indian Classical Dance, whose reputation rests on the presentation of aesthetic experience that is classical as well as innovative; that is bold in its originality as well as humble in its recognition of the vastness of the Art. In Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam's Art, the physical reality of form and shape is perfectly blended with the spirit of exposition, producing a totally wholesome effect on the audience.

Bharathanattiyam is one of the proudest possessions in our rich traditional heritage. It is an intricate art which has a language, grammar and literature. In order to appreciate it, one has to cultivate sensitivity over the years. It embodies a refinement in terms of expression, gestures and choreography, which requires a certain level of understanding of the basic cultural tradition of our people. Most of the time, our response is from the level of surface sensibility.

But Bharathanattiyam is like an ocean. You have to delve deeper into it, in order to collect the gems and the pearls of the Meaning of Symbolism. Sometimes, even the senior artistes and quite a number of students of dance, do not appreciate the real meaning of an exposition. We may easily by swayed by the overwhelming physical personality, or by the grace of movement, or even by the fineness of the gestures of the artiste. But Bharathaniruthyam is not a mere combination of these features.

It is something more. It is a spiritual experience. It touches the very core of your being. It is a form of yoga. In it, the body remains

inspired and submerged. Through it the soul seeks to realise itself. It seeks to make an offering of itself at the altar of Divinity. Therefore, Bharathanattiyam, in its essence, is one of the highest forms of spiritual exercise and is the most difficult to practise or to perform, unless there is true devotion, true surrender, true sublimation of one's personality, through meaningful exposition of the art.

In her classical work captioned *'Bharata's Art' (Then And Now)* Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam has expressed herself in a similar vein:

> "*Nritta* is a spiritual experience for the ideal dancer and the ideal audience. It is a means through which the dancer achieves a shedding of her body consciousness. As in Yoga, in dance too, the body is trained only to be forgotten about. The dancer's self, integrated with the universal dance of all the constant Cosmic Activity, liberates her from all the shackles of this earth. The dancer herself becomes a microcosmic being, experiencing within herself unlimited freedom and bliss. The result of such a *Nritta* is the same as that of Yoga and Yagna".

Spiritual experience of any kind involves the efforts of a life time. There is room for creativity but there is greater need for application. Bharathanattiyam Bharathanirudhyam is a difficult but fine art which requires intense application, intellectual concentration and profoundly spiritual outlook. If the Natya is to be rendered well and if it is to express fully the inner spirit of the art, the artiste must enter into the inner spirit of the phenomenon which she is seeking to express.

The soul of a performance consists not merely in external features. The artiste must enter into the very "Bhava" which is the soul of the presentation. There must be a perfect harmony of soul, heart and head, with the eyes and looks and gestures and movements, and the rhythm of the feet. The dancer must enter into the spirit of the "Mudra" and not merely exhibit the "Mudra" in a mechanical way.

She must use all her physical and spiritual assets and weave them into a dance, even as a supreme Poet weaves mere words into a perfect lyric. The artist must submerge her ego in the emotion of the theme, in order that her intuition may become vibrant and revealed to the audience. The late K.S.Ramaswami Sastri, the Connoisseur of Bharathanattiya once said:

> "When the divine emotion possesses the dancer and the dancer's emotion possesses the cultured audience and the emotion of the audience possesses the dancer, a perfect work of art will be born".

Incidentally, this statement reveals how important the audience reaction is, in bringing out the best in an artiste.

Indian classical tradition has survived to the present day, mainly because of its spiritual foundation. The spirit of Man survives the onslaughts of Time and Space. That is why Bharathanattiyam continues to be a living art, which can still be presented according to the Natya Sastra of Bharatha Muni.

But the essence of the Sastra is not to limit this by rules and regulations. There is a misconception about the place of tradition in art. If our minds are limited and lack creative imagination, then

everything is limited including the Sastra, because people are unable to see into the deep meaning of such Sastras. But, for those who are truly creative artists, the Sastras provide limitless possibilities of realising the highest self, through individual personal experiences.

In this sense, Natya is as profound as music. Dance and song go together. Without the spirit of music within, it is impossible to dance. Like Natya, music is also the complete expression of the highest emotions. When music and dance are merged in visual and auditory experience, the Sublime can be reached. Ultimately, we have to recognise that our art tradition symbolises to Divine play. All those living and non-living, owe their existence to the Divine.

The spark of life within is ignited by the Divine. It is the Divine that dances through the mind and heart and the body and keeps the flame of the Soul aglow. Like every other art of India, Bharathanattiyam symbolises the Supreme Cosmic Presence. God in His purest manifestation of rhythm is Dance. Dance is therefore the perfect revelation of the Supreme Reality. The English translation of some lines of a famous dance song *"Natanam adinar"* goes like this:

"Thus danced the Lord;

Long, long ago in the Golden Hall of Tillai

The three worlds assembled to watch His dance

And the gods gathered all around

Adi-Sesha swayed in ecstasy, the earth trembled.

Thus danced the Lord,

So He dances !
And His dance brings the world to salvation".

God is the Supreme Yogi. By His Ananda Thandava, He brings Body and Soul together, Heaven and Earth together, bringing the world to its salvation.

Saint Thirumoolar said:

"The Perpetual Dance is His play".

A Tamil verse says:

"Our Lord is the Dancer, who like the heat latent in firewood, diffuses His power in mind and matter and makes them dance in their turn".

Lord Nataraja is the Greatest Dancer because His dance signifies creation, protection, destruction and grace. His uplifted hand points the way to salvation. He holds the fire which destroys the evils of the world. In the dance hall of the universe He performs the Sacred and Eternal dance.

I wonder whether there has been, in any other artistic tradition in this world, a similar conception of Dance as the highest approximation of Divinity.

Such is the art that you are now seeking to possess. As I look at the young and aspiring students here, my mind goes back to my own personal experience, spanning more than two decades as a dancer. Even as I speak these words, my very understanding of them deepens, but, more important, my respect and admiration for my Gurus, my teachers, grows. The Guru Paramparya, in the classical arts of our country, is important not only because the texts are old and very few people have mastered them and only a few are available to convey the essence.

The Guru tradition is important also because, in our mind, the Guru is associated with and is symbolic of the very Divinity. Our capability to appreciate the texts, gets enlarged by our experiences with the Guru. And the task of the Guru is not easy either. The life of a Guru is a life of sacrifice. It is a life of "Sadhana". Ideally, it ought to be a life of utter austerity, simplicity of living and sublimity of conduct and character.

I am sure you will agree with me when I say that.Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam is one such Guru. You can, therefore, be justifiably proud of being associated with her, of being trained by her.

To the young students whom we have watched today I say. I wish you all success in your chosen career. May the guiding Hand of Lord Nataraja continue to inspire you, in your mission of understanding and portraying the best in the classical tradition of our country.

I must say that I and all of us here have been previleged to watch this brilliant exposition and presentation of the 108 karnas today.

I congratulate all the young artistes who perform for us today. I pray the almighty that He may bless Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam with many many more years of long life and good health so that, our young students may benefit from her tutelage and the Nation at large may be enriched by her experience.

The speech delivered at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of 'Nrithyodhaya' at Madras on 6th October 1993.

INCULCATE THE HABIT OF SAVINGS AT AN EARLY AGE

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the first meeting of the reconstituted State Advisory Board for National Savings. Countries which have marched forward on the road to accelerated development, have all relied on a high savings to Gross Domestic Product ratio, to harness the capital needed to launch the growth process. Savings are utilised in various investments, including investments in public infrastructure in the past. The National Savings Scheme or the Small Savings Scheme, as it is popularly known, has been instrumental in enabling the States to finance the development of public infrastructure in the past.

I have a specific vision of Tamil Nadu marching ahead with an efficient and adequate public infrastructure. It is for this reason that I attach the highest importance to the mobilisation of Small Savings.

I am glad that despite severe handicaps, particularly those caused by the withdrawal of special incentives by the Government of India in 1992-93, Tamil Nadu has done exceptionally well, reaching an all time high record level of net collection of Small Savings of Rs.615 crores in 1992-93. This has considerably exceeded the target of Rs.550 crores. This all time high performance has undoubtedly been responsible for Tamil Nadu achieving the plan outlay of Rs. 1935 crores in 1992-93, which is far in excess of the approved outlay of Rs.1751 crores. It is a spectacular achievement and I wish to congratulate all the people involved in the Small Savings movement who have made it possible.

The Small Savings movement has unfortunately entered a crisis situation due to the withdrawal of incentives by the Government of India. I have raised this issue, about providing a special niche for Small Savings, so that people are enthused to invest in small savings. I have also raised this issue in the National Development Council. Detailed proposals have been sent to the Government of India. I do hope that given the steep decline being encountered in Small Savings this year, the Government of India will take special notice of the situation and extend a special niche treatment to Small Savings. We can make specific recommendations on this issue for consideration by the Government of India.

The widespread Post Office network with more than 12,000 branches in Tamil Nadu has rendered excellent service in mobilising small savings. Times are changing and people expect good and efficient service. Obviously, when other types of savings, whether it be in, mutual funds or in direct participation through the private capital market, are responding to the need to minimise delay and render efficient customer service, it is essential that the post office system is also modernised. I would suggest that this issue be discussed with specific reference to upgrading the post office system to render better service.

I am glad that special steps have been taken to ensure that the agents are kept fully involved in the savings movement. It should be our endeavour to further simplify and streamline procedures, so that agents get their dues quickly and render even better service. I have given careful thought to the question of improving the small savings collections through an expanded agent force. I am glad to announce that we shall engage the services of 5000 new agents in the small savings movement.

Investors have increasingly become a very discerning group and they carefully evaluate benefits. I am glad that the special incentives announced by the Government of Tamil Nadu have been distributed promptly, eliminating the delays which were chronic in the past. Customer Service is of utmost importance and I do wish to reiterate the need to keep the customer's satisfaction upper most in mind. I am sure we can discuss more ways of improving customer satisfaction in today's meeting.

We have already had a scheme of setting apart some funds to provide an incentive to each district to undertake schemes at the district level. This incentive amount was linked to the performance in small savings. In the current year, we have introduced the concept of decentralised district plan and have made an allocation of Rs.20 crores as untied funds. We shall progressively enhance the allocation for the decentralised district plan and make it clear that the better the savings in the district, the greater will be the allocation of untied funds.

I am also glad to announce that any village which has ensured 100% enrolment and retention in the Small Savings Scheme will be provided specific public infrastructure, whether it be water supply, road or any other facility which is needed at a cost not exceeding Rupees one lakh. This village development scheme will be funded out of the funds which would be made available under the district development plan.

I would also like to emphasise the need to inculcate the savings habit at an early age. I am happy to announce that a special new incentive of providing basic sports equipment will be given to every High School and Higher Secondary School which achieves 100% enrolment and retention under the Sanchayika scheme. I am confident this new incentive will provide a further boost to the

savings movement in the schools.

I understand that the gift scheme has been very popular. I am glad that there has been flexibility in changing the gift scheme to suit rural areas and, in particular I welcome the new arrangement by which tractors will be given in rural areas instead of motor cars. In addition, I am glad to announce that we shall also introduce an attractive tourism package, including tours to destinations abroad like Singapore and Malaysia, as also destinations in Tamil Nadu.

I would like to bring to specific notice the need to professionally organise the publicity effort on small savings as we are in a fiercely competitive market. Publicity is vital and I wish to suggest that the publicity campaign be tailored to cover the widest audience in a telling manner. We can discuss how the publicity effort should be organised.

We have a detailed agenda before us today and we have to consider several subjects. I have briefly touched upon the main issues before us. I do hope we can have meaningful deliberations and reach useful conclusions which can further the small savings drive in the State, so that the target of Rs.590 crores for the year 1993-94 can be reached.

Inaugural address at the first meeting of the State Advisory Board for National Savings at Secretariat, Madras on 22nd October, 1993

DEVELOPMENT PLANS SHOULD BE PLANNED IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER

We are meeting today to consider the direction in which the State develop during 1994-95, which will be the third year of the Eighth Five Year Plan. When we launched the Plan, the economic situation was dismal, both at the National and the State Level. We have had to make many sacrifices to achieve an annual plan of Rs.1650 crores during 1991-92 and Rs.1935 crores during 1992-93. Though we are faced with difficulties, we are confident of achieving the current year's annual plan of Rs.2101 crores. I look forward to the advice of the Members of this Commission as to the size of the Plan required during 1994-95 in order to sustain the tempo of development that we have built up so far.

Power continues to be our most important sector. Power holds the key to development of not only Industries, but also other sectors which depend on Industrial growth, including the agricultural sector. The completion of large on-going power projects like the North Madras Thermal Power Project will have to receive priority.

Large projects with external assistance have been launched in agriculture, water supply and many other sectors. These externally aided projects are crucial to the success of our plans. Hence they have been treated as ear-marked schemes from 1993-94. Adequate funding and close supervision are needed for timely completion of these projects.

The Indian economy is being opened up and a structural readjustment process is going on. It is our endeavour to protect the weaker sections from the severe pressures unleashed by the

structural readjustment process. We should continue to provide a strong social security net to these sections of society.

The damage caused to the ecology during four decades of development in India is serious. Thinning tree-cover, shrinking pastures and increasing extents of fallow, degraded and eroded lands bring home to us the importance of planning development in a sustainable manner.

It has been said that nature can provide enough for every one's need but not for every one's greed. We should plan our development schemes in a sustainable manner so that our natural resources are not depleted, but continue to be available for future generations. In addition to ecological sustainability, our Plans should also meet the test of sustainability with reference to our financial and man-power constraints. The schemes should also be internally sustainable.

Planning our development during 1994-95 in a sustainable manner is the most imporant in our agenda for today. There are other important issues relevant to the tasks of develoment, which we have to consider.

Opening remarks at the meeting of the State Planning Commission at Secretariat, Madras on 3rd November, 1993.

"Dr. J. JAYALALITHA 15 POINT PROGRAMME FOR CHILD WELFARE"

This function, organised to inaugurate the 15-POINT PROGRAMME FOR CHILD WELFARE in Tamil Nadu, is an occasion of deep emotional significance for me. It marks the culmination of a process, which was initiated at my instance, to draw up a specific action programme for Child welfare in Tamil Nadu. It seeks to give a concrete expression to my long felt urge to look at the needs of children in all their totality, and to reaffirm our commitment to fulfil these needs in a meaningful manner, so that the child of today will become the leader of tomorrow.

In the Indian tradition, the Child and God are one. Early childhood is vested with Divinity and Society gave all indulgence to the child, according it a primacy of consideration and treatment. For Example, children, women, the aged, the sick and the infirm were grouped together for enjoying the protection of Society to the same degree. Similarly, pregnant mothers and young Children have been treated alike and shown the same kind of consideration necessary to keep them happy and healthy. The child, in the Indian tradition, is not viewed in isolation but was and is considered as part of a larger matrix in which the mother-child unit is the very foundation.

Measures to promote the child's growth or to alleviate its distress are required to be directed towards this unit, with the centre of protection shifting gradually from the mother to the child.

Unfortunately, the noble conceptualization of childhood, as found in the Indian tradition, has remained largely Utopian. The practical experience of the child in Indian society has been very

different. The gravest draw-back of the Indian tradition has been its relative rejection of girls, leading to the practice of violence against female children in some cases. More often, the Indian tradition has been guilty of ambivalence towards girl children, in a subtle and insidious manner. The protection and indulgence offered to children have been an indirect expression of the self-centred needs of Indian parents, with their economic and social expectations of their own children. Parental dominance, social compulsions bordering on superstition, and economic necessities, have produced a deep divergence between profession and practice in our treatment of children.

Today, the situation is no doubt changing. There is a greater degree of awareness of the problems of children, and of the necessity to solve them, and of the creative and constructive potential in young people, and of the need to develop them, so that they can grow into bright and active citizens. In recent times, international organisations, including the United Nations, the UNICEF and the World Bank, and many Nations including India, and many State Governments including Tamil Nadu and eminent experts, have been increasingly turning their attention to child development, based on the realisation that investment in the child would be a critical factor in determining the health and competence of Society. Today, there is more clarity in our thinking and in our approach towards the problem of the child. Thanks to the international focus upon the child, we are able to see where the path of progress lies, and what steps are necessary to shape this path, so that all our plans and actions can be designed to help the Child take to this path of progress.

The lesson that we ought to derive from our experience in the implementation of the Child Welfare Programme in the past, is

that, there is not much meaning in pursuing half-conceived and adhoc programmes, programmes which only touch the fringe of the problem. We now know that the needs of the child are many and varied, and that they have to be looked at from a total perspective, and that a programme of action for the Child must produce a total and satisfying effect upon the physical, emotional and mental development of the Child. It should be our endeavour to see that all children grow not only in size, but in courage, confidence, competence, resourcefulness and understanding.

Some two years ago, I came across an avoidable tragedy that arose as a result of employment of children in a fireworks factory at Sivakasi. I told our Social Welfare Minister and the officers, that Society and the State Government must assume full responsibility for this tragedy, and take all steps to prevent its recurrence in the future.

During the last one year or so, our Minister for Social Welfare and the Officers of the State Government have been engaged in some deep and critical thinking. They also had the benefit of guidance and consultation with the Representatives of UNICEF and other international agencies promoting Child Welfare Programmes.

The result is the 15-Point Programme for the children of Tamil Nadu.

It gives me great pleasure to renew the commitment of the Tamil Nadu Government to the children who represent our future and our hopes and our aspirations. This renewal of commitment is not just a verbal expression but a very concrete 15-Point Programme for the mother and the child and an Action Plan for all the Departments of the State Government.

We are the first State to have formulated such a detailed Plan for the Child. We have set our sights on major goals to be achieved before the end of this century - just seven years ahead of us. We have also set milestones for specific goals to be achieved by the year 1995, the middle of this decade, and by 1998, the end of our current Eighth Five Year Plan period. We have already crossed the National Targets for 2000 AD in many indicators. To give you a few examples, against the National Target of Infant Mortality Rate at 60 per thousand for 2000 AD, we have already arrived at 57.

Against the targeted National Birth Rate of 21 per thousand, we have already reached 20.7. We have a death rate of 8.8 per thousand of the population, against the targeted National death rate of 9 per thousand by 2000 AD. Against the targeted National Maternal Mortality Rate of 2 we have arrived at 1.1. In some basic immunisation goals, the National target is 85% for 2000 AD, but we have already achieved 100%. Tamil Nadu has blazed new trails in many of these fields and will continue to be a leader in the future also.

Some of the points in my 15-Point Programme, like the one on Child Labour, have already been announced by me in one form or another. Now I am attempting a coherent synthesis for interlinking all the points, ensuring a total perspective for the harmonious development of the mother and the child.

First of all, we need to pay attention to the health and nutrition of the children. Experts advise me that a birth-weight of a 3 kilograms will greatly increase the chances of child survival and reduce infant mortality. Therefore, our FIRST GOAL is that by 2000 AD, the average birth weight of the children born in Tamil Nadu shall be 3 kg. We shall take all steps to ensure this.

SECONDLY, we shall eliminate all kinds of Vaccine Preventable Diseases, and will be the first State in India to eradicate Poliomyelitis and Neonatal tetanus.

Our current level of Infant Mortality Rate of 57 per thousand is fairly low, compared to other States. At the same time, we are setting up a new goal of reduction of Infant Mortality, to less than 30 per thousand live births, by elimination of deaths due to diarrhoea in children under five years, and elimination of deaths due to acute respiratory infection. This is our THIRD GOAL.

As the FOURTH GOAL, we propose to eliminate all micronutrient deficiencies such as Vitamin-A deficiency, Iodine deficiency, and Iron deficiency in children and mothers by 30% from the current levels.

More and more mothers are using infant feeding formulate and there is a decline in the practice of breast-feeding. We must educate the mothers to make them recognise the dangers of bottle-feeding and the benefits of breast-feeding. As the SIXTH GOAL, we will ensure that Tamil Nadu will be the first State in India to make all Hospitals and Maternity Centres "BABY FRIENDLY".

The age of marriage is crucial for the helath of the mother and the child. Similarly, spacing of birth intervals is crucial. Our SEVENTH GOAL will be to liberate young women from the shackles of early and frequent child bearing, by raising the age of marriage for girls and spacing birth intervals to three years. Thereby we hope to achieve reduction of the crude birth rate to less than 15 per thousand.

Literacy levels and the mother's understanding of the issues of child birth and child rearing are closely connected. However,

disparity between the male and the female is still glaring.

In Tamil Nadu, thanks to our concerted efforts, the drop-out rate at the primary level has declined steadily to 19.3% in 1991. We need to give a final push as a matter of highest priority, to improve the quality of education, to achieve the universalisation of compulsory primary education, in order to guarantee 5 years of primary education for every child, by legislation and by campaign. This will be our EIGHTH GOAL.

It is our experience that, as female literacy increases, the birth rate and the infant mortality rate fall. Also, a literate mother is more likely to ensure that all her children get an education. We shall, therefore, endeavour that Tamil Nadu will achieve 100% Female Literacy by 2000 AD. This is our NINTH GOAL.

As an important concomitant, in the interest of the health of the mother and the child, we will take all steps to ensure that safe drinking water supply and better access to sanitary facilities will be made available through village-based community services and at all children's centres. This will be our TENTH GOAL.

Bonded child labour, child labour in hazardous industries and employment of children under 12 in all industries will be eliminated. This will be our ELEVENTH GOAL.

As our TWELFTH TASK, we propose to popularise the Girl Child Protection Scheme, to improve the status of the girl children and achieve equal sex ratio by 2000 AD.

As you know, the State Government has taken commendable steps to eradicate the evil of female infanticide in Tamil Nadu. Steps taken will be continued. This is our THIRTEENTH TASK.

Childhood Disability is a cruel and painful experience for the child. All steps will be taken to improve the rehabilitation facilities in the villages. The FOURTEENTH GOAL set for ourselves is to prevent Childhood Disability, and to provide for early detection and rehabilitation of the affected children in all cases by 2000 AD.

And finally I want to tell you something that comes from deep within my heart. I have witnessed the tragic death of young children on account of congenital heart diseases. Advanced facilities for diagnosis and treatment are now available in our State. Therefore, we shall eliminate heart diseases in children, by making available open heart surgery, free of cost for children in all cases. The Government will bear the entire cost of heart surgery for children. We will be the first State in the Country to do so.

You will see that our 15-POINT PROGRAMME gives special attention to the needs of the children who are most deprived and are most in need of protection. The administrative machinery will be geared to provide the proper arrangements, for the achievement of all the goals that I have just spelt out.

I also want to tell you that even though I am announcing an integrated programme today, we have taken many steps to progress towards the goals even earlier. I have been keen to introduce an incentive to mothers who undergo sterilisation after having one or two daughters, an incentive that will be powerful enough for the mothers to stop further pregnancy.

We have already introduced a special incentive scheme, which provides for a deposit of Rs.2,000 for each girl child and periodical payments for education, and a final lumpsum payment of Rs.10,000 when the girl completes her twentieth year.

I have been looking at this scheme and trying to improve it even further. I am happy to announce today that the initial deposit under the scheme will be enhanced from 2,000 to Rs.5,000 and the final lumpsum payment will be increased from Rs.10,000 to Rs.20,000.

Further, instead of payment of cash of Rs.250 on the first birthday of the girl child, a gold ring weighing 2 grams valued at about Rs.800 will be presented to the girl child. The deposit amount of Rs.5,000 will be entered in a pass-book on enrolment, and a token system will be introduced to claim the periodical payments. Also, the age limit of the parent, for eligiblity under this scheme, will be increased from 35 years to 40 years.

I do hope that with these changes, the GIRL CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME will prove to be even more successful in paving the way for family limitation, and for the enhancement of the status and living conditions of the girl child.

I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Dr. David Klaus and his team, forming the World Bank Mission on the Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project, for participating in this function and being with us today.

I acknowledge the services of the World Bank, which has been assisting us in the unique Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project. We are hopeful of continued assistance from the World Bank, which will help us in our endeavour to achieve the goals set by us today.

I must also express my deep sense of gratitude to UNICEF and to Dr. Jon Rohde. I must say that the approach of UNICEF, and the devotion and affection of its officers, have motivated me to a great extent in conceiving and formulating this integrated plan for the Child.

I was inspired to take on this challenge, thanks to the initiative of the UNICEF Representative to India, Dr. Jon Rohde, who met me in August this year. The challenge was that Tamil Nadu should be the first State in India to prepare a STATE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CHILD. I think we have met the challenge.

We now have to begin the task of achieving the goals we have set for ourselves, in right earnest. I would like to appeal to every one of you, to accept this commitment to the Child as the best investment of our Society. I appeal to you to come forward to support our effort, so that the Child of Tamil Nadu has all the opportunities and all the facilities to grow into an active and useful citizen of our Nation. It is in the stages of infancy and childhood that we must begin to develop our valuable human resources.

Our revered Chief Minister, the late Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR recognised this truth, and that was the reason for his implementing the Free Nutritious Noon Meal Scheme for school going children in Tamil Nadu. PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, the First Prime Minister of India said:

> "Somehow, the fact that ultimately everything depends upon the human factor gets rather lost in our thinking of plans and schemes of National Development, in terms of factories, machines and general schemes. It is very well important that we must have them, but ultimately, of course, it is the human being that counts and if the human being counts well, he counts much more as a child than as a grown-up".

Let us now give our Children what they need and deserve.

Our Chief Secretary Mr T.V. Venkataraman began to quote Robert Frost. I would like to complete the quotation for him.

The woods are lovely dark and deep
but I have promise to keep
and miles to go before I sleep
and miles to go before I sleep

This was one of the favourite Quotations of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru too. So today, this quotation applies not only to me but all the officers of Government of Tamil Nadu who are involved in the implementation of the 15-Point Programme for Child Welfare. So to all of you, I say, we have promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep. It is my solemn promise to the children of Tamil Nadu that indeed we will not sleep until we have succeeded in achieving the goals that we have set for ourselves today and I seek the co-operation of all the people of Tamil Nadu in achieving our goals.

The speech delivered at the inauguration of
'Dr. J. Jayalalitha 15-Point Programme for Child Welfare',
at Madras on 11th November, 1993.

CHIEF JUSTICES' CONFERENCE

It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege to address this August gathering, in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India and Hon'ble Chief Justices of the High Courts in India and other distinguished delegates. I cherish this opportunity and do hope that the many luminaries present here today will provide the right atmosphere for a discussion on matters of far reaching importance.

The primary object of our constitution is to secure to all citizens, speedy justice, social, economic and political. Accumulation of arrears of cases in different courts causes undue delay in rendering justice to the citizens which in effect results in denial of justice. It has, therefore, become imperative to expedite the disposal of cases in different Courts without much delay. To achieve this objective, effective modifications of the provisions and procedures of law which are responsible for the delay in rendering speedy justice to the citizens have become imperative. The Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Justice Thiru Malimath has indeed analysed the different aspects for reduction of pendency in courts and has suggested valuable judicial reforms.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate and express my sincere thanks to the Government of India for having made a bold departure in the annals of the Judiciary by including this sector under the PLAN and for having allocated funds for the year 1993-94, though not adequate. The Government of Tamil Nadu has at the instance of the Centre, forwarded the proposals for a sum of Rs.83 crores for the implementation of projects for the judiciary during 1994-95 and 1995-96 for sanction. I hope that the

Government of India will consider sympathetically these proposals and allocate a sizable quantum of funds so that a definite face- lift can be given to the Judiciary and a good beginning can be made in provision of better infrastructure facilities.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is generally in agreement with the judicial reforms suggested by the Committee, particularly, those relating to the modalities to be followed in the matter of appointment of Judges, periodic review of the strength of judges, abolition of the original jurisdiction of the High Court of Judicature and doing away with the multiplicity of the appeals. It would be desirable for the purpose of uniformity, that Central legislation is undertaken for implementing the recommendations of the Committee.

I would also suggest that in order to reduce the arrears in the High Court, which are in the nature of writ petitions and appeals pending for more than a decade, an alternative Forum or Tribunal may be set up both under Articles 323-A and 323-B of the Constitution to reduce the pendency and for earlier relief required by the citizens by way of remedy under Article 226 of the Constitution.

It is also suggested that the procedure for disposal of cases including writ petitions and writ appeals may be simplified and decisions given at an early date. We should strive to ensure that no case are pending in any Court for more than a year.

Vacancies in the Courts including the High Court should be filled up without delay. Whatever the reasons that existed previously for non-filing of the posts of High Court Judges, steps should now be taken to fill up those vacancies immediately. If the

present situation of accumulating the arrears for several years is not handled effectively, the people will lose confidence in the judicial system as obtaining today.

I would like to point out that the welfare of the people should be the primary concern of a welfare State. A social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall be the objective of the State will have to be brought about as speedily as possible. The legislature the judiciary and the executive, being the three limbs of the State have to function in perfect understanding and mutual regard for each other. If the progressive measures either legislative or executive, undertaken by the Government for the upliftment of the oppressed and the downtrodden and the weaker sections of the society are stalled by the vested interests, merely by approaching the Courts and getting orders of stay or injunction, the fruits of such measures will not reach the poor and the deserving, and this is bound to create discontent among the people which will have far reaching social and political consequences. In the words of Justice M.C. Chagla who pleaded for judicial activism.

"Today the Judge has to consider the social or economic policy of the State and to consider the law in the light of the policy. It is absurd to suggest that the judge must sit on the Bench ignoring the social and economic needs of the people and the desire on the part of the Legislature to satisfy these needs. That is a standard of judicial detachment which is both unattainable and in my opinion entirely undesirable. In my opinion, the duty of the judge is to help the Legislature to satisfy the needs of the time. He should not set himself as a brake against social progress. He should not justify the criticism that judiciary in India is a Third Chamber which exercises the power of veto over the legislation

passed by the elected representatives of the people. While resisting unjustifiable encroachments of the executive upon the freedom of the individual the judge should not forget that he is also a citizen of the country as interested as any one else in the great social and economic adventure upon which we are launched, and it is not enough that he should do legal justice, which he must, but he must also try to do social and economic justice, if he can, without hurt to his judicial conscience."

I would therefore like to make an earnest request to all of you to the effect that exparte stay or injunction may be granted by the Courts only in exceptional cases and in cases where non- granting of stay or injunction would result in undue hardship. Where such interim stay or injunction is granted, it will have to be ensured that both sides are heard without delay and the interim orders must be got either vacated or confirmed forthwith. Otherwise, the judicial forum which has been established to render justice, social, economic and political to all citizens will be used for getting exparte interim orders for the benefit of certain individuals by stalling the important progressive measures intended for the benefit of the public. While respecting the independence of the judiciary, I would like to make a request through this forum that the Courts may take into consideration the objects of the measures taken by the Legislature of executive in the interest of the public while granting orders of stay or injunction. It is pertinent to point out that granting of innumerable adjournments and interim orders of stay and injunctions in a routine manner by the courts, without regard to the balance of convenience not only leads to delay in dispensing justice but also causes undue hardship to the litigant public. Similar is the case in granting of bail without duly weighing

the gravity of the crime committed and the effect it has over the Society at large.

The State of Tamil Nadu is a forerunner in extending speedy justice, social, economic and political to the public at large. It is needless to say that the policy of the Government should reflect the will of the people. In this context it will not be out of place to refer the policy of the State in the matter of reservation of seats in educational institutions and employment in public services, which reflects the will of the majority of the people. In our State, where more than 75% of the population consists of backward classes, such reservation has necessarily to be based on the proportion of the backward classes in the total population. The reservation policy of the State Tamil Nadu cannot be compared with that obtaining in certain other States where the percentage of Backward classes of citizens may be less. You know that the Government of Tamil Nadu has been the champion in the matter of a reservation policy as an effective instrument in achieving the goal of social justice for the backward classes of people who constitute the majority of the population.

Of late there is uncertainty in the law by reason of the judgments of the Supreme Court over-ruling settled positions under the earlier decisions by the Apex Court.

In this connection, I quote the views of one of the eminent jurists H.M. Seervai in para 9,340 vol. I.4th Edition (1991) where he states as follows:

"9,340 Article 141 postulates that the Supreme Court declares the law which then binds all courts. This demands judicial discipline from Supreme Court Judges whatever their personal views may be. It is submitted that for the last 12 to 15 years a

number of judges who hold strong views on the role of a judge with power of judicial review of legislation, and on" the values of the Constitution " or the "philosophy of the Constitution" have felt themselves free to disregard judgments by which they are clearly bound. A position is being reached where there will be no settled point of law on matters of great constitutional importance. The position of a judge vis-a-vis our Constitution will be considered presently, but it is obvious that courts exist to decide disputes between litigants. And in the complex laws governing our society, litigants must turn to lawyers for advice. If a final court creates a situation in which there is no settled point of law and no certainty as to what the decision would be till the judgment is delivered, lawyers cannot advise with any confidence and the court has failed to perform the function for which it exists. Courts exist to give relief to litigants; litigants do not exist to provide opportunities to judges to develop the law according to the individual philosophy of judges."

The recent judgment on the reservation issue in the Mandal Commission case has over-ruled the settled position which has held the field under earlier decisions for several years. Thus situation has been reached where the benefits given by a State Government to the weaker sections of the society with reference to Article 46 of the Constitution have to be taken away to the detriment of the weaker sections of the society.

The courts can only declare the laws and not assume the power of the legislatures which is purely within the domain of the Legislatures of Parliament. In this context it will be relevant to point out, in the words of Justice Krishna Iyer.

"Law is a means to an end and Justice is that end. But in actuality, Law and Justice are distant neighbours, sometimes

even strange hostiles. If law shoots down justice, the people shoot down law and lawlessness paralyses development, disrupts order and retards progress. This is the current scene."

Hence to maintain the credibility of judicial forums and to create absolute confidence in the minds of the general public, justice acceptable to the majority of the public should be rendered by the Courts. As between the court's verdict and verdict of the people, only the verdict of the people will have to prevail, because the verdict of the people is final in a democratic set up. The courts of justice should have social vision and while interpreting the legal provisions the courts should bear in mind the social philosophy enshrined in the constitution. If decisions of the courts in the matters of socio economic policies, are not acceptable to the public at large, this may lead to discontent among the people and many seriously affect the credibility of the Courts and erode the confidence of the people in the Judiciary. The social consequences of such an emerging situation can be quite serious.

Modernisation of the facilities in the different Courts has become imperative, for the purpose of the expeditious disposal of litigations. Speedy steps are being taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu in this regard. Conceding the request of the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, our Government sanctioned an expenditure of Rs.1.28 crores towards the air-conditioning of the High Court, Annexe building and the chambers of the Judges and Advocate-General in the main building of the High Court, Madras. Similarly recent order for construction of buildings for Courts and for residential accommodation of the judges are some of the examples to show that this State is marching forward towards modernisation of Courts.

I can proudly say, that our Government has given top priority to the administration of justice. This will be evident from the fact that this Government has so far established 35 Subordinate Courts within a period of thirty months from the date of its assumption.

Our Government is in favour of the recommendations of the Working Group II for establishment of a Committee consisting of, among others, the Advocate-General of the State, the Secretaries incharge of Law and Administration of Justice to go into the question of institution of frivolous cases and to suggest appropriate remedial measures. The offences should be made compoundable and the victims of the crimes duly compensated by exploring the ways and means. The Government of India may consider the need for bringing a Central legislation to amend sections 320, 321, 357, 358 and 359 of Cr. P.C. In this context I would emphasise the need for a judicial conference to be held periodically at State level, comprising a High Court Judge, the Advocate-General of the State, a member from the Bar Council and Secretaries incharge of Law and Justice, to review the pendency of cases before the High Court. At present such a review takes place by judges of the High Court only. As the Government is the major litigant, the participation of Government nominees and law officers in such a review meeting conducted by the High Court judges are necessary.

The concentration of cases in the hands of a few senior lawyers also contributes to the delay in the disposal of cases. The recommendations of working Group III that the Bar Council should address itself to the problems of inordinate concentration of work of some members of the Bar Council is fully endorsed. Furthermore this Government also ventures to suggest that, in

order to avoid the unpleasant situation of strikes by the lawyers, the Government of India may consider the feasibility of appointing a committee to evolve a suitable code of conduct for the lawyers which will solve the problem. Availing of this opportunity, I would also like to suggest in this learned forum that the erstwhile system of apprenticeship of lawyers with seniors may be revived and made mandatory, so that well trained minds will be made available to the galaxy of advocates which may help to avoid untoward situations like strikes by these enlightened members of the community.

Speedy Implementation of Legal Aid Programmes with a well organised net work of lawyers, social workers and judges and the constitution of the Legal Aid Board has won the appreciation of the then Chief Justice of India. I would like to point out that the pendency of matrimonial cases in our State has considerably been reduced, consequent on the constitution of the Family Courts. However, I would like to emphasize that unless the Government machinery is fully involved in the implementation of the Legal Aid Board activities, the objects of this laudable movement cannot be carried to the rural areas. In order to streamline the functioning of the Legal Aid Board system, the Government of India has been engaged in bringing-forth an amendment bill to the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (Central Act No.39 of 1987), for quite sometime and this bill has been introduced in and passed by the Rajya Sabha and is awaiting the approval of the Parliament. May I appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister through this forum that the proposed Central legislation may be brought forward without further loss of time, so that we may have a well balanced and uniform pattern of legal aid systems throughout this sub-continent?

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been pressing the Government of India to establish a Bench of the High Court at

Madurai from as early as 1972, mainly to redress the grievances of the litigant public hailing from the southern parts of Tamil Nadu. The Madras High Court has also constituted a Judges Committee for making its recommendations to this Government . I do hope that the Madras High Court will forward its report to the Government very soon and the long felt demand of the people of the Southern districts of the State will be fulfilled early.

Similarly, I would like to request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to consider the long pending demand of this State for the setting up of a Bench of the Supreme Court at Madras mooted by my mentor and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G.R. I know that the Hon'ble Prime Minister is fully seized of this matter. I would like to emphasise that the establishment of a Supreme Court Bench at Madras will meet the needs of the litigant public of the Southern States, who have perforce to go to New Delhi to get their grievances redressed and Madras city occupies an important place among the States of the Southern region.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that the Government of India has set up the National Judicial Academy at Delhi. I would like to avail this opportunity to request the Government of India to locate this Academy at Madras. The National Academy and the Training Institute likely to be started by the Government of Tamil Nadu, in consultation with the High Court of Madras, at Madras, will be fully utilised so that trained intellects will always be available to the judiciary in the disposal of its important constitutional function viz., rendering justice to the litigant public at large.

In conclusion, I am happy to inform you that the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken all the possible positive efforts to ensure that the people of Tamil Nadu are provided with easy access to

the Courts. While so, I would like to appeal to the Government of India through this forum to be more sympathetic in releasing funds of higher quantum so that the needs of the judiciary can be met in full.

I thank the Chairman for having given me this opportunity to present the views of the Government of Tamil Nadu in this forum of distinguished delegates.

The speech readout at the Chief Ministers' and Chief Justices' Conference for consideration of the Malimath Committee recommendations at New Delhi on 4th December, 1993.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS SHOULD RENDER THEIR VALUABLE SERVICES TO THE POOR, ON VOLUNTARY BASIS, FOREGOING REMUNERATION

I am honoured by your invitation to inaugurate the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India. I am deeply grateful to you for the same. I am happy that the Association is holding this Conference at its own headquarters in the City of Madras.

Madras has been the home of many distinguished physicians and surgeons ever since systematic medical practice began in this country, and their contribution towards the advancement of medical knowledge and the alleviation of human suffering will fill many pages in the medical history of our Country. The names of eminent leaders of the medical profession such as Dr. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, Dr. Pandalai, Dr. Rangachari, Dr. Guruswamy Mudaliar and Dr. K.S. Sanjeevi are only a few that come to my mind. Many others have played a notable part in the building of a sound structure of medical education, diagnosis and treatment. It is no wonder, therefore, that Madras has been in the forefront of development of medical science, medical research and the provision of proper medical and health care to the community.

Phenomenal progress has taken place in medicine throughout the world during the last 50 years. The City of Madras has not lagged behind in the absorption of the ever expanding medical knowledge, and in availing of the modern and latest facilities for the health of the community. Young Medical Professionals of our

State have been appropriately influenced by the winds of change blowing across the field of medicine. They have been quick to master the essentials of this development and have been able to utilise their knowledge and skills in the best interests of the patients. The chief attraction for them, of course, has been the Western world with its facilities for learning, its intellectual environment and its congenial atmosphere for concentration on one's profession and for upgrading one's skills.

This has, no doubt, resulted in some *Brain Drain*. Many young and aspiring medical professionals have gone abroad in pursuit of higher learning. But the *Brain Drain* has not been without its advantages. After all, the home of modern medicine is the Western world, particularly the USA and the European Countries. The knowledge explosion and the advances that are taking place there have been spectacular.

It is but appropriate that our young medical professionals should display a natural inclination to participate in the exciting process of learning and mastering the newest skills and in enhancing the scope of their knowledge. While it is sad that some of them have stayed back there, it is reassuring that many of them have been returning to our country in order to use their skills for the benefit of our people, no doubt, inspired by a spirit of service, giving up a good income and an affluent lifestyle.

We must acknowledge this spirit of patriotism and service. I do not mind more medical professionals going abroad for higher education. That is good for them and good for our country. I would only like to appeal to them to acknowledge that a poor country like India has given them a good foundation in medical education at

high cost, and naturally expects them to provide some service to the people in return. This expectation they must fulfil, sooner or later, since the foremost responsibility of any human being, today, is to help another human being in physical or mental distress.

I am, at the same time, heartened by the increasing trend of *Brain Return*, if the recent impressive growth in the number of private hospitals, equipped with high-tech facilities and staffed by high qualified physicians and surgeons returning from foreign countries is any indication.

New hospitals are being built out of private or public funds, inspired either by generosity or by commercial considerations. Sophisticated equipment is being installed in many centres to aid in the proper diagnosis and treatment of diseases. These centres are serving as magnets, drawing highly qualified medical professionals to their fold. One would say that this is a desirable trend and ought to be encouraged. I am all for private investment in the field of medical facilities and would like to encourage it by all means. We must have centres of medical excellence where the latest knowledge of medicine and medical technology is available for the benefit of every one. I have no doubt that these centres of excellence will produce the much needed multiplier effect, and stimulate aspiring young professionals to qualify themselves in areas of specialisation which will further spur them on in the competitive race for acquisition of knowledge.

However, I must bring to your notice two disturbing trends. One is the tendency of these hospitals to congregate in metropolitan centres. Many new hospitals are coming up, for example, in the

City of Madras, mainly because there is demand enough to utilise these services and people are willing to pay for the services.

One would say that the demand has created the supply. But it is equally true that the supply of these medical facilities and medical expertise is also creating its own demand. But a system that ought to take care of the poor and the needy, of the people who cannot pay the market price for medical services, cannot be based only on the demand and supply equation. Society and the State have a responsibility to ensure that these services are, in fact, made available where they are needed most, even in cases where the people are not able to afford to pay for them.

The concentration of these services in the urban areas has created an imbalance which will have to be rectified. Our State Government is doing its best to remedy the situation by improving the medical facilities in the rural areas, in the district hospitals, the taluk hospitals and the Primary Health Centres, but paucity of financial resources is our major constraint. Also, the high cost of medical equipment makes it difficult for us to instal these at many centres.

The State Government has also to meet the competing demands from the different medical specialities for equipping them. And this is a hard choice to make. Therefore, I would like to appeal to the eminent medical persons who are assembled here today, particularly those wishing to set up new hospitals, to go to rural areas and semi-urban areas where the demand is growing. The positioning of such services will confer great benefits upon the community. Incidentally, that trend will also encourage young

Doctors to go to smaller towns and rural areas, where their services are most needed.

The second disturbing trend relates to the rising cost of medical services. This is an acute problem in the Government Medical Institutions. However, since the medical service provided by the Government is availed of largely by the poor, it is not possible to charge fees which will provide a reasonable return on the incremental investment that the Government would like to make in the medical sector. At the same time, many Government Doctors are exceptionally well qualified, and their services can be put to better use only if they are provided with adequate equipment. The Tamil Nadu Government has seriously considered this problem and, inspite of financial strains, has been providing equipment and other medical facilities in the hospitals, well beyond its financial capacity.

I must acknowledge that private hospitals have taken the lead in acquiring costly medical equipment and in mastering advances in medical technology. While I agree that they must get a return on such investment, I would like to stress that the private hospitals do have a social responsibility too, to make available these facilities to those who cannot afford payment for them, and who in any case need them, at least on a concessional basis, if such services cannot be provided free to a limited extent.

I have underscored this need on earlier occasions, before different gatherings, and I would like the Medical Professionals to apply their minds to this problem, and come forward to render their valuable services to poor and needy people, on a voluntary basis, even foregoing remuneration where it is necessary.

The Proliferation of private hospitals in the private sector has brought to the forefront the important question of maintaining the standard and quality of service, and the upholding of professional ethics. In some sense, both these issues are related. They concern the objective and the purpose for which the private hospitals are set up, and the vision which these hospitals have to develop. The Doctors serving there, no doubt work for the hospitals, but they also work for the patients; they work for the community. Their skills will have to be utilised in helping the patients obtain proper diagnosis and treatment in quick time and at low cost. Redundancy and waste of all kinds will have to be avoided, proper patient care being the only consideration.

The Government would like the advice of eminent professionals as to how to go about the problem of maintaining standards in private hospitals. I would like to suggest that the Association of Surgeons must set up suitable institutional arrangements, which will help the various hospitals to maintain uniform standards, avoid competition, reduce wastages and minimise the cost of patient care.

This takes me on to certain larger issues. The advances made in physiology, immunology, bio-engineering, medical technology, new genetics and in many other fields of medical science have been phenomenal during the last 50 years. These advances have contributed to the physical health and longevity of people in the Western world, and the benefits are now beginning to flow to the developing countries. Dramatic advances in the field of surgery have resulted in new surgical techniques that have made surgeries easier, ensuring comfort and minimal risk for the patient.

The simultaneous development of anaesthesia has been the essential ingredient in the advancement in the field of surgery. But these developments are raising many moral and legal issues, and the Western medical experts are grapling with them. Apparently, we are in a better position with regard to these issues, and we are not facing the kind of moral dilemma that is being witnessed in the West on account of bio-engineering, genetic engineering, transplantation and the like.

Our problem is different. Our problem is one of providing health and medical service to the large mass of people who are living below the poverty line in our country. We have to look at this problem, not in terms of curative exercises, but in terms of prevention of diseases. In countries like India, poor health is often the result of poor nutrition and unhygienic environmental conditions. The problem of health is often the problem of providing elementary civic services like clean drinking water and sanitation.

It is also the problem of providing education, so that the essential principles of health and hygiene are learnt by parents and children, and many diseases can be avoided at relatively low investment. Control and eradication of infectious diseases, for example, can contribute a great deal to improvement of the health of the people. So in a country like ours, policies that accelerate income growth and reduce poverty, make it possible for people to enjoy better and healthier living conditions and better health care.

Policies to expand educational opportunities, particularly for girls, help the people achieve healthier lives by increasing their access to information, and their ability to make good use of it. Similar policies which help to provide effective and accessible basic health services for all, contribute to the health of the

community substantially. When all these policies are combined, they create a virtuous cycle in which reduction of poverty and improvements in health reinforce each other.

My biggest concern in Tamil Nadu has been the Child. By nurturing the physical and mental potential of the child, by minimising environmental constraints, by promoting a positive health milieu, we want to provide a firm and solid foundation for the proper development of the child. Tamil Nadu has done extremely well with regard to child care. But we are not satisfied with what we have already achieved. I went into this question in great detail.

With the assistance of the UNICEF, we have been able to develop a 15-Point Programme for Child Welfare, and I had the pleasure of inaugurating this programme a few weeks ago. Through the proper implementation of this programme, the Tamil Nadu Government aims to ensure that every child in Tamil Nadu will have the best possible opportunity for healthy growth.

I mentioned this mainly to highlight the fact that a health policy, oriented to the provision of some basic public health service, can, in fact, achieve a great deal; can make possible the prevention of many diseases, and can ensure better health among growing children with better capacity for resistance to diseases. The Government of Tamil Nadu will give the highest importance to this programme in the months ahead.

Simultaneously we have been taking all the necessary steps to identify the areas of priority for curative service, so that proper facilities can be provided for treatment. In 1992, our Government launched a scheme of free health camps all over the State, and

we achieved remarkable results in extending curative service to the entire population in the rural areas. In the process, we have been able to collect valuable information regarding the state of health of the people, the incidence of disease, the gaps in the provision of clinical services and the steps to be taken to fix specific goals and to attain them in a short span of time.

In our programmes, we have carefully maintained the distinction between health care as an industry and health care as a social service. In today's conditions, the concept of health care as an industry appears to dominate the global scenario. To some extent this has distorted the real goal of health care. The concept of health care as an industry, puts the power of knowledge and technology in the hands of the medical expert. But excessive power carries with it a grave danger. That is the danger of losing responsibility for human life and lowering ethical standards. That is the danger of the physician or the surgeon losing his personal vision, which ought to require him to make the service of his fellow human beings his first concern. The lowering of the dignity of the profession is also brought about, when he gives priority to earning, far in excess of his needs. Medicine is a healing art. Medical treatment ought to be based on personal communication between the Medical Practitioner and the patient.

When the Doctor regards human life as something purely material and he considers himself the most expert technician, the true goal of medical science is lost. Medicine no doubt requires the cool and rational basis of science. But it must also manifest warm human sentiments.

Dr. Arnold Toynbee says:

> "There must be a desire to regard the life of any human as something subjective and a mental posture that venerates spiritual communication among people".

While medical advances overwhelm us, experts, even in the West, are beginning to think in terms of Eastern Wisdom, in terms of a holistic outlook. They are increasingly realising that future health care would have to concentrate on improving the scope of conventional medicine, in order to deal with a large population.

Fritjof Capra says:

> "Medical Science would not need to abandon the study of the biological aspects of the illness in which medical science excels, but would have to relate these aspects to the general physical, physiological condition of human beings in their natural and social environment".

There is, therefore, need to look at Eastern medical disciplines such as Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicine, and seek to understand their basis better, so that their help in the prevention and cure of diseases can be further mobilised, in an inexpensive manner.

I must admit that Western Scholars are already impressed by this idea. For example, the mind-body relationship in the treatment of illness is now being recognised, more than ever before. Most of the experts agree that there is a mind-body relationship in illness and health.

The Indian concept of "Prana" and the Chinese concept of "Ch'I" are examples of traditional terms which refer to subtle energies, the imbalances in which are said to produce diseases. Eastern wisdom looks at the individual, not as a static structural or material point in space-time; it regards the human being as a continual flow and change in essence. Eminent thinking minds are beginning to acknowledge the need to look at the patient as a

holistic individual, whose problems are not just problems of one or the other of the patient's limbs or parts, but problems which need to be looked at and handled as a whole.

These are some of the observations that I wish to make at this inaugural session. The concern that I have expressed about certain matters is worthy of your consideration. Nobility should be the hallmark of the medical profession. The Doctor who inspires by personal example can change the world of the patient, his/her attitude and his/her outlook. The Doctor's job is not merely to prescribe medication. The Doctor's job is to heal a patient and it does not stop there. "Getting well is not the only goal. Even more important is learning to live without fear, to be at peace with life and ultimately death. This means that the Doctor will have to overcome his own problems and master his own mind". Carl Jung, the great Psychologist said:

> "The physician may no longer slip out of his own difficulties by treating the difficulties of others. He will remember that a man who suffers from a running abscess is not fit to perform a surgical operation".

This abscess can be both internal and external. I would only request you to evaluate your role as a leader of the community, dedicating yourself to providing service to the community, in whatever manner you choose, without regard to your eminence, professional skills or achievements, but inspired only by simple human consideration. Then every hospital will be a temple of healing, every physician or surgeon will be a true healer and a purveyor of happiness.

Before I conclude, I wish to express my deep gratitude to the President and the Members of the Association of Surgeons of

India, for conferring upon me the privilege of Honorary membership of the Association. I sincerely appreciate your generous gesture and I greatly cherish it. I salute the medical profession for the momentous service it has performed and continues to perform towards the welfare of mankind. At the same time I am offering some unconventional ideas so that you may consider them, and help to clarify the role of the medical profession in terms of the needs of our own society. Both as the Chief Minister of a State as well as a private person, I shall continue to discharge my obligations towards the medical profession, so that all of you, in turn, can contribute your best to the welfare of Society.

I am aware of the request of your Association to extend the lease period by another thirty years. I am happy to accept your request. The Government will issue orders accordingly.

The Government will give utmost consideration to your request for fixing the lease amount at a reasonable level.

I note that you are in financial difficulty. With a large membership of influential Surgeons from all over the Country, you ought not to be in such difficulty. Nevertheless, I am happy to announce a Contribution of a sum of Rs.5 lakh from Government to tide over your financial situation.

I wish your Conference all success and express the hope that your deliberations will be fruitful and useful.

Inaugural address at 53rd Annual Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India at Madras on 27th December, 1993.

CHIEF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE -PHOTO IDENTITY CARD TO VOTERS

I am happy that the Union Minister has found it appropriate to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the States in order to discuss the various issues arising out of the directive of the Election Commission of India for giving Photo Identity Cards to all voters in the Country before 1.1.1995. I am also happy that the Union Home Minister has responded positively to the request of the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Chief Minister of Orissa and a few other Chief Ministers to get this matter discussed in detail in a Conference like this.

The issues arising out of the directive of the Election Commission of India have far reaching implications for the electoral process in our Country.

Every registered voter has a right to vote in a Parliamentary or Assembly election. Over the decades, institutional arrangements have been designed and created to ensure the exercise of this right by every registered voter. Indian electors are familiar with these institutional arrangements and our democracy has functioned. I am not unaware of the flaws in the system. I am equally anxious that these flaws should be removed. Ultimately all political parties will have to subscribe to a system that identifies the genuine voter and gives him/her full opportunity in exercising his/her voting right. With this view, I do agree that changes can be brought about in the system if they help to mitigate the evils.

I believe that the Election Commission of India has envisaged the introduction of the photo identity card system only in this context. I agree that the principle behind the directive of the

Election Commission is laudable, but the main problem is how to go about it.

The notes given to us here clearly highlight the magnitude of the problem. They raise legal issues and point out practical difficulties. The implementation of the new system calls for enormous investment and huge recurring cost. Even assuming that the benefits that flow from the system will be commensurate with the cost, the question is: Can the Country afford to incur an expenditure of this magnitude? Even if somehow or the other, we decide to incur this expenditure, is it possible to make the system foolproof so that all the flaws associated with the electoral process, particularly in the matter of proper identity of the registered voter, can be eliminated? We also have to take note of the legal issues in enforcing this directive. More than the legal issues, the problem of photographing the registered voters, relating them to the Voters' List, ensuring the safe custody of the duplicates, handling problems in the course of change of residence of the voter, etc., I am afraid, are going to be really difficult to solve.

It is in this context that we have to decide how far to go in the matter of the issue of photo identity cards. I would prefer to have a multipurpose photo identity card which takes care of many needs of the registered voter. But, such a scheme ought to be introduced over a period of time, carefully, with complete control against possible illegal duplication. In fact, I consider the possibility of illegal duplication to be a very serious threat to this scheme.

Therefore, I would like to say that this scheme should be tried on an experimental basis in select Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in every State, for a few years, before a decision

is taken to extend it thoughout the Country. I would urge caution and I would not like this august assembly of Chief Ministers to take any decision in haste.

If however, a decision is taken to comply with the directive of the Election Commission of India, I would urge the Government of India to meet the expenditure fully, since it is impossible for the State Governments to foot the bill within a short time. If that is not possible, I would like to endorse the recommendation of the Chief Minister of West Bengal that 90% of the expenditure should be given as grant by the Central Government to the States and 10% must be given as a soft loan to the States.

Overall it seems to me that the Government of India should discuss this issue with the Election Commission of India and persuade it to agree to an experimental scheme.

The speech placed before the Chief Ministers' Conference at New Delhi on 19th January, 1994.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE TO BE USED TO SOLVE HUMAN PROBLEMS

I am grateful to the Honourable Union Minister for Human Resources Development Thiru Arjun Singh, for giving us the privilege and the opportunity to organise this prestigious National Science Exhibition at Madras.

I wish to convey my sincere appreciation to the National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi, for its initiative in sponsoring this Exhibition at Madras. I extend to all of you, and especially to the bright students gathered here from all parts of the Country, my hearty welcome. I thank you for your participation in this Exhibition.

The National Science Exhibition for Children is being organised every year, in different States of our Country, in commemoration of the Birth Anniversary of the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who was our first Prime Minister.

As you know he was a friend of children. He had a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of children and gave them all his love and affection. He believed that the best hope for the future of India lay with the children of the Nation. He did his best to shape the economic and social policies of our Country, in order to ensure that the children grew in a proper, healthy, carefree and intellectually stimulating atmosphere, so that they could flower as the future leaders in Science and Arts, professions and specialities.

He was a true scientist. He gave importance to the growth of the rational faculties, the development of mind and intellect and declared more than once that the future of our Country would be

secure if it was based on scientific foundations. The annual conduct of the National Science Exhibition, where young children display their scientific talents, is the best tribute to his memory.

Science and Technology are transforming the world everyday. They are bringing about a revolution in our ways of thinking, in our attitudes and outlook, in material resources, in social life and in our personal lives.

It is not possible to live away from science or wish away science. This is not only because of the fact that growth and prosperity in the West are directly related to the development of science and technology. Science has become important, mainly because it connotes a new manner of thinking, the adoption of a particular kind of logic and a way of life, and all these are vital for all people, irrespective of where they live, so that the complex problems of a developing society can be sorted out uniformly. Science is also important because of the mental and intellectual discipline that it postulates. Such a discipline is greatly necessary in order that our minds, our skills, our wits and our intellect may be sharpened, and Society may benefit from the high energy flowing from lively minds and keen intellects. Science and technology have also contributed a great deal to the alleviation of the problems of poverty and unemployment, the two biggest problems of our Country. There is no doubt that scientific and technological solutions can be utilised successfully for tackling our economic problems.

When we talk of science, we need to underline the spirit of scientific enquiry. It is the proper cultivation of this spirit of scientific enquiry that fuels the vehicle of discovery and points out vast vistas of the future. We know that the spirit of enquiry is the

primary quality of every child. It is important to see that this spirit of enquiry is properly canalised, is given proper motivation, and is coloured by scientific bias. So long as our system of education does not spot the spirit of enquiry in children or promote it, education cannot be deemed to have fulfilled its purpose.

History shows that the spirit of scientific enquiry leads to the development of a scientific temperament, which promotes and strengthens scientific research, discovery, and the adoption of scientific values by Society. Science is a precious heritage of humanity and is the result of incessant human labour, search and struggle for growth. The development of insight, reasoning and intuition that accompany the growth of scientific temper, have greatly benefited human society in a variety of ways.

It is therefore very necessary that our children must learn to develop a scientific temper. I can tell the young children gathered here today that there is something essentially attractive about science, and you will be impressed by it, the more you involve yourself in it. After some time you will find that there is beauty, simplicity, harmony and brilliance in science, and the pursuit of science can give you enormous pleasure. Besides, it can give you a goal in life and an attitude to cultivate.

Your own outlook will vastly change; your sense of humanism will increase, and your concern for other people will also grow. I would like to tell you that the proper pursuit of science can give you a philosophy that will be wholly satisfactory throughout your life. We all know, that in order to be a successful scientist, all that you have to do is to keep alive your sense of curiosity. The desire

to know is the basic motivation of discovery in science. It is wonder that animates science.

The great Physicist Erwin Schrodinger observed: "Curiosity is the stimulus. The first requirement of the scientist is to be curious. He must be capable of being astonished and eager to find out." The capacity for wonder distinguishes every great scientist. Einstein's profound capacity for wonder is well known:

> "From the time Einstein was fifteen or sixteen years old he puzzled over the question: what will happen if a man tries to catch a light ray? For years he thought about this very problem. Its solution led to the relativity theory. We see in this one example some important features of Einsteins's genius. First, and above all, there is the capacity for wonder. Scientific ideas are inspired by a sense of wonder and a regard for beauty. As one scientist wrote: Many of our speculations about the atoms and about our Universe were created because of Man's curiosity, because of his desire to penetrate deeper and deeper into the unknown."

The great scientific discoveries have been elegant but deceptively simple. But they call for a sense of wonder, a keenness for discovery and a profound application of mental faculties.

Then even simple tools become grand instruments for making major discoveries. That is why an exhibition like this is full of value. It gives an opportunity to young persons to conceive experiments and give a concrete shape to them. You derive a satisfaction which is the same as when you compose a piece of poetry, a

poem, or when you solve a mathematic puzzle, or when you handle a musical instrument and render a composition of classical music. Therefore, you see that scientific experiments give you a satisfaction that is not possible of measurement in a purely utilitarian way.

At the same time, we must remember that science is intertwined with human culture in general. Scientific findings, however advanced, are meaningless outside the cultural context. It is not enough if science is understood and practised only by a few learned persons. Science and technology have to be used to solve human problems, the problems of health, the problem of poverty and the problem of want. Scientists acknowledge that science has to be related to the needs of mankind. There was a traumatic time during the Second World War, when science was being feverishly applied for the destruction of mankind.

Today, fortunately, the trend is changing. There is now a greater recognition that science must be used to bring people together to solve common problems of mankind. Here, the richer and poorer nations have to combine. The richer nations have to show a spirit of give and take. The poorer nations must learn to develop their essential human resources through education, so that more people can develop the scientific sense, and use science to solve their own problems. If you look at science from this angle, you will see that it can play a great role in bringing people together.

Young children who conduct scientific experiments, are making a valuable contribution to human progress by their understanding of the role of science in securing social needs.

We, in Tamil Nadu, have achieved sevaral mile stones in the development and enrichment of science education for school children. Our Government has strengthened the school education system for effective science teaching, by establishing a Science City at Madras. We are also setting up Regional Science Centres in various places in the States. We have a plan to construct Science complexes in all Government schools.

The Government also provides laboratories and libraries for the benefit of the students in High and Higher Secondary Schools.

The City of Madras can claim to have a very large number of scientific research institutions located in a cluster. We have decided to establish a Science City in the Taramani area of Madras, which will nurture and promote the growth of a proper scientific environment. Hundreds of scientists working in this place will be able to devote their time and attention to the cause of science and technology, in a congenial environment.

We have already set up a Science Centre, Science Exhibition galleries and a very well equipped Planetorium in this place. We are planning to expand our science exhibition with international assistance. I do not want science to remain the exclusive preserve of a few minds. I would like science to reach all children and all people. Our Science City will be so designed, that it will radiate the influence of science among all the people who come to study the scientific disciplines there.

I learn that over 450 students from about 300 schools from various parts of our Country, are participating in this National Science Exhibition, and a few hundred exhibits of science and technology are to be displayed. This is a unique event. I do hope that the children of our State will derive proper inspiration by visiting this Exhibition.
A well-known Chinese proverb says:

"I read, I forget,
I see, I remember,
I do, I understand."

A Science Exhibition helps students to understand the basic principles of science by interacting with the exhibits. It helps the children to gain an insight into the world of science, through entertainment and enjoyable participation. When children of many States gather together to demonstrate their scientific skills, their mutual understanding and appreciation grow. National integration becomes an actuality.

I wish to conclude by reiterating that science is born of a sense of wonder. The sense of wonder drives a child to infinite possibilities and the child grows taller than itself. It comes to represent the oneness of humanity in its desire for discovery.

Therefore, all of us have to do everything possible to promote scientific interest in our children, so that their experience can develop science, and science will make them the true citizens of the world.

There are some words in John Lennon's music, which I wish to quote:

"You may say I'm a dreamer,
but I'm not the only one.
I hope some day you'll join us
and the world will live as one."

The same spirit must govern our scientific endeavour. I wish to convey my best wishes to all the children who are participating in this exhibition.

The speech at the inaugural function of 21st All India Science Exhibition for Children at Madras on 19th January 1994.

TAMIL NADU HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE PROUD PRIVILEGE OF HOSTING THE INTERNATIONAL INVITATION ATHLETIC MEET AND THE 33rd OPEN NATIONAL ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP

Today is a Red Letter Day in the annals of Sports in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu has been given the proud privilege of hosting the International Invitation Athletic Meet and the 33rd Open National Athletic Championship. I am sure that the conduct of these two outstanding sports events at Madras will mark a turning point in the development of Sports in our State. I must, therefore, on this happy occasion, convey my sincere thanks to Thiru Sivanthi Adityan, President of the Indian Olympic Association, for the initiative he has taken to get these events to Madras and for his sincere commitment to sports. As the Vice-Chairman of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu Thiru Sivanthi Adityan has been providing great support to all our programmes for the promotion and development of sports and games. I must also express my gratitude to Shri Suresh Kalmadi, M.P. and President of the Amateur Athletic Federation of India, for the readiness with which he came forward to support the holding of these two major sports events in Madras City, and for his help to us in organising the Meets. His standing and influence in the field of sports has been a source of strength to us in our efforts to conduct these two Meets on this grand scale. I am also happy that doyens of the world of sports from many countries have come here, in response to our invitation to witness the events, and to see what we can offer in terms of sports facilities, sports talents and

hospitality. Their presence here speaks volumes of their friendship towards us and will inspire our athletes to perform better.

It is also a matter of great happiness that more than 750 of our best national athletes have assembled here, to participate in the 33rd Open National Athletic Championship. They are coming here, fresh from the National Games that were held recently in Pune and Bombay. I am sure they will do their best to improve upon their previous performance and set many more records here. Our national athletes will have the added advantage of competing with international athletes, in some of the events during the next three days, and I do hope that this international competition will spur them on towards greater achievement. I am happy to extend my warm welcome to all the athletes from other countries. I convey my best wishes to all the national and international athletes. I hope you are happy about all our arrangements for your stay in Madras. I have no doubt that the pleasant and friendly atmosphere of this City and the warmth of its people will provide you with a congenial environment and create the right mood to put you in top form and enable you to give a splendid and superlative performance.

We constructed this magnificent Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium within a period of just 7 months in 1992. It was inaugurated in January 1993, last year, by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. P.V. Narasimha Rao. We have dedicated it to the people of our country. International Sports Meets could not be held in Madras earlier, because the City of Madras did not have a stadium of this kind in the past. The construction of this new stadium has made possible the conduct of international athletic events on this scale.

I call upon the young people of our State to make the best use of the vastly improved facilities that are available here, and to train and equip themselves sufficiently, in order to distinguish themselves in the national and international sports arena. We are planning to create further facilities of international standards such as a swimming pool, an indoor stadium, a velodrome, an astroturfed hockey stadium and a modern tennis stadium, so that more and more international competitive fixtures can be held in the City of Madras.

You will also be happy to know that the City of Madras will be hosting the next South Asian Federation Games in the year 1995, and we hope to be ready with all our vastly improved and new facilities by that time.

Sports and Games bring people together. The participants vie with each other for honour and glory in their respective fields, with the pursuit of excellence as their only goal. They sink all their differences and seek to demonstrate to the world the infinite possibilities of *Body* and *Spirit*. In their own turn, the spectators spontaneously acknowledge the great acts of physical and mental endurance that the athletes put forth without regard to colour, creed or nationality. Such bonds of friendship between the sports persons and the spectators can truly promote peace and understanding in the world.

We need more of sports and games, not less. We need to develop more outstanding sports men and women, not only for the glory that they will bring to their Motherland, but also for the example that they set before the young people, as the embodiment of discipline and determination that they must display, in all their endeavours, in order to succeed.

Today, more and more young people are taking to sports and games in India. They do well at the national level, but they have a long way to go to be able to reach international standards. They must put in hard work and be prepared to go through arduous training. They need well qualified coaches in order to train them to international standards. Right talent has to be spotted well in time, and the State, as well as Society, in general, must help the talented young people to pursue their ambition in the right atmosphere. There has to be greater recognition of the fact that sports men and women bring glory and fame to the country, as much as Scientists or Technologists or Scholars or Public figures do. The State and the Society must join together to Pool all the available resources, so that the needs of aspiring sports men and women can be met, in full. We, in Tamil Nadu, have already started this process with the setting up of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, and I am happy to say that we have been able to identify the issues and focus our resources upon the development of sports and games in our State. We are beginning to see the results, even within a short time. Our State came third in the National Games held recently, and I am sure our boys and girls will make it to the top during the next games.

The response of International athletes to our invitation has been overwhelming. In the next few days, sports lovers and spectators will have the opportunity to view some of the world class athletes in action, in this very stadium. Our Indian athletes will have a chance to compete with them. I am sure that this competition will help our Indian athletes to improve their performance. The participation of Indian athletes in international events such as this, will give them the necessary confidence and valuable experience which will stand them in good stead, in this era of competitive sports.

I have great pleasure, once again, in extending a warm welcome to all our guests here and to all the athletes both national and international. I must convey my very special greetings and thanks to the several thousands of boys and girls, 12,500 in all, who will, in a short while, present some captivating cultural fare and a display of gymnastics. They have toiled very hard during the last few weeks and are waiting to present a spectacle of beauty and perfection. I also wish to say a very special thank you to the several thousands of young boys who are presenting a colourful placard display before us. I would also like to thank Thiru A.R. Rahman for composing the music for the entire inaugural ceremony; Thiru K.S. Raghuram, for choreographing the dances to be performed by thousands of school children, which you will witness shortly; and poets Kavignar Naa.Kamarajan and Thiru Gomathi Nayakam, for penning the lyrics for the songs.

I must also express my gratitude to the personnel of the Tamil Nadu Police Force who will be presenting a dare devil display of motorbike riding while performing thrilling feats, as well as popular folk dances of Tamil Nadu, such as Karagam, Kavadi and dummy horse dances; and the personnel of the Railway Protection Force who will perform an exquisite torch light tattoo.

I would be failing in my duty if I did not thank the more than 500 school teachers and physical training instructors who have been training the children, and putting them through their paces for this inaugural ceremony.

I must convey my warm appreciation and gratitude to Thiru Walter Isaac Davaram, Additional Director General of Police, Law & Order, who is the Chief Co-ordinator of today's spectacular inaugural ceremony, and Thiru T.V. Venkataraman, Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, who has toiled

ceaselessly, without respite, for the successful conduct of these Athletic Meets, and all the officers of the Government of Tamil Nadu who have co-operated with us. I would also like to compliment and thank the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, Thiru S. Sripal, the Commissioner of Police, Madras, Thiru R. Rajagopalan and the Inspector General of Police, Intelligence, Thiru A.X. Alexander, for the excellent security arrangements, and convey my thanks to all the Police Men and Officers working under them. Above all, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri P.V. Narashima Rao, and the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Shri K.P. Singh Deo, for kindly arranging for the live telecast of the inaugural and closing ceremonies of these Athletic Meets on the National Network of Doordarshan, and also for the telecast of the daily highlights every night on the national network of Doordarshan.

I have great pleasure in inaugurating the newly laid Synthetic Track, which, I am sure, will be instrumental in producing outstanding athletes in the near future. I am happy to inaugurate the International Invitation Athletic Meet and the 33rd Open National Athletic Championship. I wish to say that millions of people, all over the country, are looking forward to a magnificent and sterling performance by the athletes. My warm greetings to all of you

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The speech delivered on the occasion of declaring open the International Invitation Athletic Meet 1994 and 33rd Open National Athletic Championship at Madras on 2nd February, 1994.

IN TAMIL NADU, WE HAVE INITIATED NEW LEGISLATION TO MAKE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION COMPULSORY

At the outset I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Union Minister for Human Resources Development for having taken the initiative to convene this important meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss all relevant issues concerning the achievement of the goal of 'Education for All'. I am glad that the Nation has at last understood the necessity to accord universal elementary education the primacy of place in national development.

The Indian Constitution made the provision of free and compulsory education for children, a directive principle of State policy. The Constitution lays down that the State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of 10 years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years. It is a sad commentary on our perception of priority, that even after more than four decades of planned development, we are still in pursuit of the elusive goal of Education for All. Despite the appearance of studies and reports on the subject of education at regular intervals, the commitment of the Governments, both Central and State Governments, and Society to the fulfilment of this important goal has been weak, and the measures taken to reach the goal half-hearted, and progress in the implementation of the various schemes tardy. Further, the issues relating to education are complicated enormously by the vastness of the size of our population and disparities in the attainment of goals from State to State, region to region, and from community to community, and as between males and females.

The problem is further compounded by the fact that the need for strengthening the professionalism of education has been mixed up with the kind of administrative arrangement by which this is sought to be done, and by our own lack of clarity as to the institutional framework which will have to be provided, in order to mobilise the support of the people, without which very little can be really done. I am, therefore, happy that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has come forward to listen to the views of the Chief Ministers on these important issues, so that some firm goal-oriented action programme can be formulated and implemented within a specific time-frame. This august body will be happy to know that, in Tamil Nadu, we have initiated new legislation to make elementary education compulsory. I have been emboldened to take this far-reaching step as I firmly believe it is our bounden duty to ensure immediate realisation of the Constitutional directive. In Tamil Nadu, we have also launched an innovative 15-point programme for the Child, which is a comprehensive plan of action including education for the child, and women's literacy. We believe that the State Governments can take considerable local initiative and the Central Government should come forward to support the innovativeness, flexibility and pragmatism of the State Governments. I regard this as an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to this noble mission of achieving 'Education for All' which will form the foundation for nation building.

We have on the agenda before us, the issues involved in reaching the goal of 'Education for All', consideration of the report of the National Development Council Committee on Literacy, and the report of the Central Advisory Board on Education, (CABE) on Decentralised Management of Education. Let me first spell out my view on the issues involved in attaining the goal of 'Education for All'. The declaration on 'Education for All' by 2000 AD, endorsed

at the World Conference of Education in 1990, enjoins on us certain key tasks which include expansion and improvement of early childhood care, universalisation of elementary education, reduction in illiteracy, particularly in the 15-35 age group, provision for continuing education, creation of necessary structure and processes to empower women, making education an instrument of women's equality and improving the content and process of education to relate it better to the environment. In addition to the intrinsic merits of imparting basic education, we have to invest in basic education as a means to rapid growth.

There is plenty of well documented evidence which points out that basic education and its synergistic effects on the health and welfare of the community is an essential condition to propel a country forward on a higher growth trajectory. Keeping this in view, we, in Tamil Nadu, have adopted a holistic approach which covers every ingredient of the tasks involved in reaching the goal of, 'Education for All'. This has been set out in our action plan which was launched in 1993 for achieving universal elementary education in Tamil Nadu by 2000 AD.

I would like to briefly highlight what we have been able to do so far and how we propose to march ahead. Tamil Nadu has been in the vanguard of the movement towards early childhood care and education. I am glad to inform you that, this year, the entire State will be covered by a comprehensive programme of early childhood care and education. With a World Bank supported nutrition project and with support under the Integrated Child Development Services, we have reached the happy situation of comprehensive coverage of all children in the age group of six months to six years throughout the State. In addition, the Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. Nutritious Noon Meal Programme of Tamil Nadu covers all the

school going children from 6 to 14 years; one of the largest programmes of its kind in the developing countries. We are also adding the element of education as an input in these centres so that they function not merely as nutrition centres but also as early education centres.

This is indeed a remarkable milestone in our progress towards 'Education for All'. In addition, I have also proposed to launch from this summer, a special programme to link the early childhood care system with the primary school system. We will ensure that the different sub systems reinforce each other in the realisation of the main goal.

We have already improved access to schools by ensuring that we have one primary school for every 500 population within a distance of 1 Km. I have very recently gone into the various reasons for drop-outs and I propose to launch a new multipronged programme shortly to ensure better school retention. This will consist of an attractive package of incentives including free mid-day meals, free text books, free bus travel, free uniforms and free footwear. It is a total package which we shall continue to provide, despite the constraints in resources.

Our focus is on girls, children of scheduled castes, tribes and disadvantaged groups. We have launched an innovative girl child support scheme under which financial support is given to girls throughout their schooling years. I firmly believe that with the attention and resources we are now committing to this task, we can make a significant impact on the problem of drop-outs.

By the year 1994-95, there will be no single-teacher schools in Tamil Nadu and in the course of the next three or four years, it is the intention of my Government to appoint more teachers, so that

ultimately we reach the goal of one class, one teacher. The in-service training of teachers will receive our continued attention, with focus on minimum levels of learning, multi-grade teaching, appreciation and acceptance of socially deprived sections like SC&ST and girls as equally competent to learn. I can say with all the force at my command that education of girls is absolutely essential for women's empowerment, and an empowered woman can discharge her social obligations with utmost commitment and conviction. We are also implementing a scheme of appointing only women teachers upto Standard V.

My Government believes in the immense potential of teachers and has always been utilising them in all progressive measures. Our State is one of the few where the Class room primary school teacher is associated with text book preparation. We intend to involve them in a greater measure in curriculum preparation as well as in finding enforceable solutions to a variety of education-oriented problems.

I believe that community participation in education is the key to the success of the programme. I have called upon all the schools to constitute Mother-Teacher Councils and I am happy to report that such Mother-Teacher Councils have been formed in all the primary schools in Tamil Nadu, and are playing a positive role in the improvement of facilities in schools. Their functions include ensuring enrolment of children, ensuring their attendance on all days, running Creches in schools and appointment of voluntary teachers on days when teachers go on leave.

Conscious of the need for a supporting non-formal system, we have launched a new comprehensive educated volunteers service scheme under which educated jobless youths are being enlisted to teach children who have dropped out. It is a very ambitious

programme in which one lakh and fifty thousand youths are being involved in a major effort to tackle the drop out issue. I am sanguine that this effort will pay rich dividends and will be complementary to the major effort we have launched within the school system.

I entirely endorse the view that it is not enough that we improve access and retention. It is necessary to qualitatively upgrade the school system and also build up reinforcing non-formal systems. In Tamil Nadu we have recently launched a massive effort to improve qualitative aspects of the school system.

We have endorsed the concepts of minimum levels of learning and multigrade teaching. Our teachers are being reoriented and retrained with these concepts in view. I have ordered a survey on the availability of the physical infrastructure. We intend to provide the facilities needed at the earliest. We shall undertake a comprehensive review of the curriculum and the text books needed. We shall keep in mind the gender issue. It is my keen desire that the girl child should be empowered in order to be a high achiever. I have every confidence that we can bring this about.

The 'Education for All' declaration also envisages a strong effort to combat the problem of illiteracy. We have to take note of the report of the National Development Council Committee on Literacy. We broadly endorse the recommendations of the Committee which cover all aspects of universal elementary education, literacy campaigns and the need to sustain the effort. In Tamil Nadu we have launched a massive campaign, under which 13 Districts involving 45 lakh people have been covered, and we intend to ensure State wide coverage before 1995. It is a colossal task covering 83 lakh persons in the literacy drive. What is more important is that we sustain the drive. I have in fact placed

special emphasis on the post literacy campaign so that we can consolidate the gains achieved.

Social mobilisation which is at the heart of the total literacy campaign has to be nurtured. We have constituted mother-teacher councils to harness the full potential of the community to strengthen the school system. We have also gone ahead and established 1363 Jana Shikshan Nilayams and we shall expand this network to cover the State.

The Tamil Nadu Government's strategy of involving Non-Governmental organisations and Voluntary Agencies, especially in the Literacy Movement, has been a fruitful and productive experience. The Voluntary Agencies who come forward to work in the field of literacy are being provided necessary technical help by the Department of Non-formal and Adult Education and State Resources Centre. It is worth mentioning here that Nine Voluntary Agencies have been entrusted with the total literacy campaign in limited areas in Madras, Trichy and Chengalpattu M.G.R. Districts. The Scheme of Grants-in-Aid given to Voluntary agencies is directly administered by the Government of India. Here I would like to suggest that the State Governments should be involved in financing, monitoring and evaluating the work of voluntary agencies.

Primary Education is basically a State subject. While the magnitude of the tasks today does call for a Central initiative, I am of the view that considerable flexibility should be allowed at the State level to implement State-specific strategies. The Centre should seek to assist the States to create a good management team at the State level and leave it to the States to devise detailed implementation plans. The States have not been associated with the scheme of grants-in-aid to voluntary agencies which is

administered directly by the Centre. Since the States are fully involved in the field they should be fully associated. I also hold the view that we can harness the potential of the mass media including television much better in this effort. I suggest that the time allotted by All India Radio and Doordarshan for educational programmes be placed at the disposal of the State Government. This will enable the production of education programmes wholly in conformity with the needs of the children in the States concerned.

I would also like to express my appreciation of the well designed District Primary Education Project which is being formulated. Three Districts in Tamil Nadu will be covered under this Project. The Hon'ble Prime Minister may recall my plea that Tamil Nadu be supported to take up a comprehensive State Project at a cost of Rs.1200 crore. Our Project proposal is with the Centre to be forwarded to the World Bank. While we are glad that a beginning is made in three Districts, our State-specific situation is such that we have the ability to launch an all-out State-wide effort. I do hope it would be possible to allow us to go ahead, given particularly the earnestness which we have demonstrated in taking up the District primary education project.

I would now like to turn to the management of education which is a key issue in our endeavour to achieve the goal of 'Education for All'. I entirely agree that it is necessary to reinvigorate the management of primary education particularly in the current context.

On our part, we have taken note of the recommendations of the Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) on decentralized management of education. At the outset, I would like to confirm that we shall be bringing forward in the ensuing Assembly Session, detailed new legislation, incorporating the

various objectives enumerated in the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution. Once the new legislation is passed, we will have the framework for the revised structure of local bodies.

The main suggestion in the CABE report is regarding the Constitution of a Village Education Committee which could also be the Panchayat Standing Committee on Education. We shall certainly constitute such a Committee to oversee primary education at the village level. I am also glad to see that the CABE Committee has recommended joint meetings of the Village Education Committee with other such Committees, relating to health and similar subjects, so that we can have a synergistic fusion of efforts at the micro level.

We shall also enhance the roles of all the three tiers of local bodies in primary education. At the same time we shall also give them an expanded role in non formal education, adult education and so on. I appreciate the spirit behind the recommendation of the Committee on decentralised management of education, relating to the transfer of funds to the Panchayat Raj bodies. We had sought to achieve this, way back, in our 1958 Panchayat Act. Over a period of time, the need for professionalism on education began to dominate, with the result that the functional responsibility for the management of education came to be fully vested with the Government. Return of the focus with regard to education management to the Panchayat Raj institutions is welcome in principle. At the same time, in view of the developments that have already taken place over many years, we need to bring about the needed management system in a careful manner, by vesting the Panchayat Raj bodies with enough functions and responsibilities, and providing, at the same time, a proper and congenial atmosphere for improvement in professionalism and quality of

education. We should definitely need much operational flexibility in ensuring the transition. In particular, we would have to tread somewhat cautiously in the management of teachers. May I suggest that the States be allowed to formulate their own policies in this regard, taking note of the ground situation?

Another key dimension relating to the management of education is the question of resources. Most States have faced a very difficult time in contending with the trials and tribulations posed by the stabilization and structural adjustment process. In fact, it has been an uphill task to protect the outlays for the social sectors. Even within the social sectors, it has been the qualitative inputs which have faced tremendous pressure, as very little can be done to regulate salary costs.

It is in this difficult scenario that we have to examine the question of resources for primary education. I fully subscribe to the recommendation that our focus and priority has to be primary education. It has, therefore, been my endeavour to provide maximum resources for primary education, while requiring higher education to find resources on its own for its needs. The CABE has made certain recommendations on mobilisation of additional resources, and has highlighted the situation relating to the resources position of the local bodies. It would seem to me that in a situation where both the States and the local bodies have to struggle to find the resources even to maintain existing levels, we cannot dismiss the question of resources as merely one of transfer of resources from the States to the local bodies. May I suggest that, given the Nation building task that we are engaged in, a specific reference should be made to the Tenth Finance Commission to take note of the basic requirements of elementary education in its recommendations? Given the fact that the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission are to cover

the period 1995-2000 and our goal is "Education for All" by 2000 AD, we should address ourselves to the resources question in a resolute manner.

There has been a suggestion with regard to levy of Education Cess. The Education Cess is generally levied on Land Revenue in many States. In Tamil Nadu, the Panchayat Unions have been permitted to levy a Surcharge on Land Revenue Cess and the collected money is wholly available with the Panchayat Unions. The Government gives them a Surcharge matching grant based on their Cess collection. Thus, in one form a Cess Surcharge is already in force in our State. Over and above this, the Government meets the entire expenditure on Education. It will be difficult, in addition to levy a Cess for Education, which will cast heavy burden on the rural people. The cost of education has to be met by other sources of funds. In Urban areas, it may be a different matter. It may be possible for Corporations / Municipalities to levy an Education Cess. But not in the rural areas. Moreover, in most States, Land Revenue has declined in importance and Cess collection will not amount too much.

I have conveyed my views somewhat broadly on the various concerns before us, as set out in the reports of the Committees. We have a National Policy on Education (NPE 1992). We have come a long way in establishing access to the school system. Our enrolment percentages are quite good. What is a cause of concern is that we are not able to ensure 5 years of schooling for a large number of children.

In addition, what is disturbing is that even those who technically complete 5 years of schooling do not possess

minimum levels of learning. Given the size of our Country's population and the large number of children involved, a massive task to transform this system is before us. In addition, the harder task of imparting qualitative dimensions to the whole structure and process of education has also to be faced. It is not going to be an easy task. We need to develop flexible approaches in the field, which will subserve the common objective of ensuring the minimum threshold levels of literacy we have set for ourselves. Innovative strategies developed at the micro level will prove to be the key to speedier progress.

In Tamil Nadu, I am personally committed to ensuring that we reach the 'Education for All' goal which has been incorporated in the 15-Point Programme for the Child which we have launched recently.

I wish to assure you that the comprehensive package of programmes that we have launched, represents a bold and imaginative new effort towards reaching our goal. We are marshalling all our resources, skills and the people's support towards realisation of this goal. As set out in our programme of action, it is our endeavour to achieve this goal by 1998. We are confident that, with the significant new steps that we have already taken, and the new programmes we will launch this year, we shall attain this goal.

I am aware of the very many problems that exist, but I do firmly believe that basic education cannot be postponed from the agenda any further. As I have already mentioned, It is the first building block in Nation building and it is perilous to ignore this any further. In Tamil Nadu we shall rededicate ourselves to this goal

of 'Education for All', and leave no stone unturned in attaining this goal.

It shall be our united endeavour to see that the people fully participate in this Nation building task. I am confident that with the very many new measures that we have initiated, this goal will not be a distant dream, as it has remained in the past, but will actually be realised in the specified time-frame of five years.

The speech delivered at the Conference of Chief Ministers on Education at New Delhi on 15th February, 1994.

THE PRESS HAS A RIGHT TO MAKE A VALUE JUDGEMENT, BUT THAT SHOULD BE UPON CONSIDERATION OF ALL THE ISSUES INVOLVED

I am happy to participate in this function, organised by the Madras Journalists Co-operative Housing Society. Your Office-bearers have been contacting me, periodically, for a date to organise this function. However, owing to pressure of work, I could not give you an earlier date. I am personally grateful to you for having waited this long. I find that the Tamil Nadu Government has allotted 5.5 acres of land, belonging to the Housing Board for the Madras Journalists Housing Colony. I also find that a sum of Rs.20 lakh was sanctioned as subsidy, towards payment of the cost of the land, on your own request. I do hope that with this, you would be in a position to expedite the pace of construction and allotment of houses to your members.

The Press is an important institution in Democracy. Its Chief role is to inform the citizens and to be informed so that the citizens can exercise their democratic rights and fulfil their responsibilities, as enshrined under the Constitution, in a mature and balanced manner. The press seeks to actualise the various freedoms available to the citizen under the Constitution, and to help in the proper functioning of the democratic machinery. The Press should also concern itself with the dissemination of basic ethical values, so that the personal and social lives of the citizens are imbibed with a sense of discipline, and concern for the best interest of the Nation, promoting, at the same time, a proper understanding of the role and the functioning of the Government. The power and strength of the Fourth Estate are best exemplified, not merely in

terms of the number of newspapers, journals and magazines which circulate in the Country; but also by the quality of their out-put and by the wholesomeness of the impact that they produce in the lives of the people, by their dedication to the cause of enlightenment of the people, and by their commitment to the principles of democracy. The Indian Press has functioned independently and has amply fulfilled its role as the guardian of democracy, and has succeeded in echoing the voice of the people. Western visitors are often pleasantly surprised by the freedom and the candour with which the Indian Press has been performing its role and the active response of the people towards the Press.

This in itself places a heavy responsibility on the Indian Press. Its accountability to the people shold be more, not less, in the context of the growing neo-literate population which is keen to know all about current affairs. There is a feeling, not wholly wrong that the Indian newspapers are highly political in their coverage and that they devote much of their attention to the politics of the day. Politics is important. But equally important are other areas such as Science, Technology, Economics, Sociology, History and the like. The Press can make a signal contribution to the education of the people in such areas, which will have the effect of strengthening the basic foundations of democracy.

It is also necessary that the Indian Press should display regard and reverence for basic democratic values and fulfil its responsibility in a spirit of humility, reporting the truth honestly helping the people to decide for themselves and by shying away commercialism and sensationalism. The circulation of newspapers, magazines and journals of all kinds is growing in this Country, but not as much as the growth of the neo-literate population itself.

Nevertheless, the Press has proved to be an active participant in the democratic process and has begun to shape and influence the attitudes of the people. That is where the responsibility begins. Freedom of the Press means not only freedom from certain restraints, but also freedom for certain purposes. The purposes are to provide proper, correct and truthful information and education to the readers. The Press has a right to make a value judgement, but that should be upon consideration of all the issues involved. Journalism, therefore is not only craftsmanship it is creative activity with a sense of responsibility. The profession owes it to the people to perform its duty to inform and educate the citizens in the proper functioning of democracy. Freedom to inform the people postulates the responsibility not to misinform, not to malign, and not to kindle the baser emotions in the people. Responsible journalism alone will pave the way for a proper understanding of democratic values. Such Journalism alone will take the Country forward.

Journalists like you have an important role to play. It is good that you consider yourselves as professionals belonging to a profession. But journalism is a profession with a difference. Its skills can be taught, only upto an extent. The rest of the skills have to come from experience.

The gathering of experience in the journalistic field often make this profession quite subjective in its attitude and approach. You are entitled to form your own opinion in respect of the affairs of the Nation, but you must be true to yourself with regard to your exposition. The citizen will value the freedom of the Press when facts are presented with truthfulness and sincerity. The least that you can do to reciprocate, is to stand for the very values which the

citizen expects you to uphold. Considered in this way, journalism is not merely a profession. It is a public service. I understand that the American Commission on the Freedom of the Press likens the newspaper industry to a public utility. The First Press Commission of India observed that the Press circulates not only the informative aspect but also the educational aspect. Newspaper influences shape and affect the action in the political, social, economic and cultural fields. People have a vital interest in the accurate and fair presentation of news and events. Therefore, public interest is the criterion that should regulate the thinking, motivation and performance of the journalist.

The Journalists of Tamil Nadu have a great tradition. Distinguished leaders have adorned this profession. They followed high standards of professional ethics which are there for every one of you to follow. Our aim should be to enhance the value of citizenship and raise the level of attitudes and behaviours of the people, and to lessen the areas of conflict and tension in society. I am sure all of you, present here today, will continue to keep up high standards of journalistic excellence, which alone will confer lasting benefits upon the people by helping to build sound democratic traditions in society.

Your Association has made a request for financial assistance for its members, to enable them to construct their houses on the plots already allotted. I have had this request examined and as a gesture of good will towards all of you, we have decided to give a grant of Rs.50 per sq.ft. for house construction, with a ceiling of Rs.40,000 per house. We shall give this benefit to 136 members of your Association, and it will cost the Government a little over Rs.50 lakh. I am sure you will welcome this gesture. I have great

pleasure in laying the foundation stone for the Journalists' Housing Colony.

I wish you peace and happiness in your new houses.

The speech delivered at the function of laying the foundation for the Journalists' Colony at Madras on 21st February, 1994.

SPORTS AND GAMES ARE GREAT BUILDERS OF CHARACTER

This is a joyous and beautiful occasion. I wanted this function to be organised because I desired to meet you and personally thank each and every one of you, especially my dear children, for all that you did to make the inaugural function of the International Invitation Athletic Meet and the 33rd Open National Athletic Championship a glorious success. But by deciding to celebrate my birthday today, you have made it a memorable occasion for me.

The last time I cut a birth day cake was in 1971, 23 years ago, when my mother was alive, my mother had hosted a birth day party for me in 1971. That was the last birth day I celebrated with my mother, because later that year my mother passed away. After my mother's death I stopped celebrating my birth day. I never threw a birth day party after that. I stopped wearing new clothes on my birth day and I did not indulge in any kind of birth day celebration. But after I entered politics and became a leader of a big political party, party men, members of my party, my followers and supporters and well wishers began thronging my residence on my birth day. In the beginning for the first one or two years, I did not agree to meet them even on my birth day. But later I felt that it was not right thing to do that. I had no right to hurt the feelings of those who came to wish me well on my birth day. Though I did not give any party, I did not cut any birth day cake but I just used to accept the birth day greetings of all those who came to wish me well on my birth day. So today after 23 years, after my mother's death this is the first birth day on which I have accepted to participate in a birth day party, and cut a birth day cake and this

is because I wanted to show you how much I am moved and touched by your sincere affection for me. I will cherish all your affectionate greetings and your goodwill for the rest of my life. I want to say "Many Many Thanks" to every one of you.

I also want to tell how proud I was, of you, on the evening of the 2nd February, 1994, at the time of the inauguration ceremony, when you performed in such a scintillating manner and your captivating performance captured the hearts of the thousands of people who witnessed your performance directly here in this stadium, as well as those of lakhs of people throughout the Country, who watched the live telecast by Doordarshan. This feeling of pride was fully justified, because you had very little time to prepare for the inaugural show. But you put your heart and soul into your performance and the sense of rhythm and the grace of movement and the beauty of perfection that you displayed, showed your class, your dedication and your artistry.

Every guest whom we had invited on the inaugural day, showered encomiums and praise for the manner in which you put up that splendid display. I wish to pass on all the praise to you, and thank you once again. I must also convey my sincere appreciation to all the Police men and Police women who presented a delectable performance of Folk Arts for which they are well known in the Country, and the colourful spectacle of speed and foot tapping rhythm which they produced enthralled one and all of us.

The Police Motorcycle riders deserve the highest praise for their dare devilry and skill and the torch tatoo presented by the Railway Protection Force was, as usual, a beautiful spectacle. I must convey my thanks to the men and women of the Tamil Nadu Police and the men of the Railway Protection Force, for their splendid contribution to the success of the Inaugural Ceremony.

A little more than a year ago, we inaugurated this landmark, this magnificent Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The International Jawaharlal Nehru Invitation Foot Ball Tournament that followed the inauguration was a great success.

The Athletic Meets that we conducted recently opened the eyes of the people in this Country to what we could achieve in Tamil Nadu. The Foreign athletes who came here to take part in the Meets, wrote to me a personal letter, expressing their high appreciation of the standard of organisation of the Meets. "Your foresight", they wrote in their letter, "in inviting international athletes coupled with spectacular facilities and unparalleled organisation will ensure that Tamil Nadu will thrust in the forefront of Indian athletics". They also wrote, "the hospitality of you and your people has met and surpassed anything for which we could have wished. It is clear that Tamil Nadu personifies all the best of India and that the Indian reputation is well founded". They also expressed the hope that they would return to Madras in the near future for some other athletic competition.

There is a saying "bring a tourist and send back a friend". Thanks to our International Invitation Athletic Meet, we brought reputed athletes from abroad who regaled us with some brilliant performances and sent them back as permanent friends of Madras and Tamil Nadu. But I am sure, more importantly, they have left behind many youngsters who will yearn to be athletes of international standards in the near future. I can tell you that we already have one Amudha, who won the Gold Medal for the Triathlon in the Asian Games held in China recently, and we have young Kutraleeswaran, who is preparing to cross the English Channel. We have many more youngsters raring to go forward, in one sports event or the other.

I used to take a keen interest in sports in my school days. I am happy that I have played some part in creating conditions favourable for the development of sports among our children.

We will give you every facility so that you can make a mark at the National and the International levels. We will adopt budding youngsters who show promise and develop their potential. We want to make you happy so that you can be free from all worries, concentrate on sports and games and achieve notable success. We want to develop sports in the rural areas, spot the rural talent and develop and project it at the National levels.

Sports and games are great builders of character. The spirit of true sportsmanship transcends all boundaries and obliterates all distinctions. The world loves a true sportsman or true sportswoman for the character and the conduct that he or she displays in winning or in losing. It is said that the manner in which a man wins life's battles shows something of his character and that the manner in which he loses, shows all. Also, a loss spurs on a true sportsman or a sportswoman to a win because perseverance always pays.

I think a new era is beginning in Tamil Nadu for glory in sports and games. I can see a new zeal, a new enthusiasm and desire among our children to excel in sports and games. It is my wish to provide all the help possible, to enable the fulfilment of this desire.

Towards the end of 1995, Madras will host the SAF games which will be a very major event. You will see many National and International Sports celebrities in action here at Madras. Once again you will be invited to give a glorious performance at this very venue.

I want every one of you to take a keen interest in sports and games and do very well in the near future and bring laurels to the Country. So, we will be meeting again.

I wish to thank you once again, for your participation, and thank you individually for making this a lovely evening for me.

The speech delivered at the function to felicitate school children at Madras on 24th February 1994.

REDEFINE THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND MEN AS EQUAL PARTNERS

I am happy you are with me today in this Summit, to help us to take a timely and appropriate policy initiative for the advancement of women in Tamil Nadu. It is my hope that after our deliberations, each and every project and programme in our State will be designed in a manner that will redefine the role of women and men as equal partners. Our intention is to make the Government and all sections of the community work together, in perfect harmony, by increasing the numbers of women and their influence in the various decision making processes.

It was Victor Hugo who said: 'Men have sight, but women have insight. Yes, and I would like to add, foresight too. This Summit is proof that we, women, have gathered together from different parts of the world to share and thereby enhance and enrich our foresight. Our sharing today, is of our own insight and experience.

Fundamental rights for men as well as for women are enshrined in the Constitutions of many countries, but it is a fact that these fundamental rights, especially for women, are not yet being universally honoured. The right and the freedom of women to choose a state of life, an occupation, or to acquire education, or other benefits equal to those recognised for men are circumscribed by the realities of the situation.

It has, therefore, become a matter of compelling necessity that we promote the enjoyment of constitutional freedom by women as well as men. There has to be a sharing of rights and freedom between men and women to a greater and greater degree. It is a

natural instinct and a way of life for women to share. This desire and readiness for sharing is in the very nature of every woman in our country, and it is our main strength as we proceed to plan for a more just society, with courage.

Our draft policy on women, with the theme of redefining women's role in development and peace, is already placed before you. The Policy Statement will be released in the evening, during the celebration of the International Women's Day. As you know, we are the first State in our country to attempt the formulation of such a Policy. I hope our Statement of Policy would be a major contribution to the efforts of the Government of India to be in the vanguard for the articulation of the Third World's vision, during the Fourth World Conference in Beijing in 1995.

I wish to express my happiness that you are here, and my gratitude - especially to our friends from abroad who have accepted my invitation at such short notice. Other friends, while conveying their inability to be with us in person, have sent us very encouraging messages. UNIFEM (United Nations Development Forum for Women) has written congratulating us on this important initiative, and observed that the lack of a clear Policy on Women has been identified as the major problem for the efficient working of the national machinery. UNIFEM says we have taken a lead in addressing this problem and promises all support. These words add encouragement to our effort.

We are not worried about the obstacles on our way. We are only trying to understand and analyse them. As Marie Curie said:

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood."

Ms. Domoto Akiko, Member of Japan's House of Councillors, has conveyed to us her great interest in what we are doing and has promised to get involved in our efforts.

Let me read out a poem sent by our Dr. Rosemary, who is here with us on this happy occasion.

WOMEN

Women cannot say:
  I want not your inspiration, Lord.
Women cannot refrain from:
  I want to give you glory, Lord.
Women cannot refuse:
  The sixth sense given them by God.
Women cannot refrain:
  The Poetry of reverence in their heart.
Women cannot deny:
  The magnificence of all the earth.
Women cannot live this magnificence:
  Without respect for man.
Women cannot love:
  Without respect from man.
God made woman, yes, God made woman
  the complement of man.

This reminds me of an incident in which a mother, in the course of an argument with her teenage daughter, said firmly: I don't want to be liberated. To which the daughter replied: I too don't want to be liberated - at least not until I know how it feels to be captured.

I feel there is a worldwide interest in our Summit today. Once again I thank you all for being with us. Let us now begin the deliberations.

The speech delivered at Women's Summit at Madras on 9th March, 1994.

TAMIL NADU LEADS IN PROTECTING THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

I have listened to your words with the greatest attention. I wish to assure you that the valuable suggestions you have made today are of immeasurable benefit to us and they will be carefully and properly included in our documents and adequate follow up will be ensured.

Since some references were made to statistics I would like to mention some specific figures. I would like to inform you that according to the statistics available with us the female literacy rate of Kerala is 86.9%. Kerala stands first in the country in this regard. I am happy to inform you that the female literacy rate of Tamil Nadu is 52.3% and we stand second in the country. Maharashtra State is third with female literacy rate of 50.5%. The female literacy rates of other States are much below these. It is our aim to take Tamil Nadu to the first place in the next few years.

I would also like to tell you that some of the salient features of the 15-Point Programme for Child Welfare, which we inaugurated last November, about which reference was made just now by Mr. T.V. Antony. I would like to point out that some of the features in this 15 Point Programme are reduction of anemia in children and mothers, to liberate women from the circles of early and frequent child bearing, raising the age of marriage for girls to 21 years, spacing of birth intervals to three years, raising of women literacy and status, the popularisation of the Girl Child Protection Scheme, eradication of the social evil of female infanticide in Tamil Nadu.

I would also like to share with you the information that in many indicators, where national target have been set by the Government of India for the States to achieve by the year 2000 A.D. We, in Tamil Nadu have already achieved and even so fast, many of this national targets, with regard to Women's development and child welfare. And we have set new goals to achieve for ourselves by the year 1998.

As part of our endeavour to protect the legal rights of women we have established All Women Police Stations throughout the State. We inaugurated the first All Women Police Station in April 1992. These Police stations are staffed entirely by women police officers and personnel. These police stations have proved to be immensely popular with our women. We have above tremendous response from the public, especially women, because these police stations have given our women, the confidence, that for the first time they will be obtained sympathetic hearing and prompt redressal of their genuine grievances. We are the first State and the only State in the entire country where All Women Police Stations have been run. We are perhaps the first in the world to do this. It may interest you to know that after seeing the success of experiment, the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mrs. Benazir Bhutto has recently started one, only one All Women Police Station in Pakistan.

We are also implementing a programme to give 100 thousand women, training in Self-Entrepreneurship so that they can become economically independent. It is firm and unshakeable belief and conviction that if we have to enhance and improve the status of women, they must be made financially, economically independent.

Some of you have come from far off places to be with us today. My heart overflows with gratitude to you. As I have understood from our deliberations, we have perhaps made just a beginning, and a very auspicious beginning, at that. Every word and phrase in our Policy paper is going to be a subject of further discussion and debate in the days to come.

It was not our intention to produce a comprehensive or final blue print that encompasses each and every point relating to the advancement of women. Today we have evolved a broad framework, a policy for policies. We have painted a broad canvas. The brush strokes have to be refined. The contours have to be drawn more beautifully. Areas of decision making have to be more precisely pinpointed . All these cannot be done in a day or two, or even in a month.

All the departments of the Government will have to deliberate on this Policy and work together, with their own workshops and seminars, as they are doing presently on my 15 Point Programme.

I assure you all here that I will personally monitor the continuation of this exercise. This summit has been a delightful experience for me, and I look forward to meeting you all again at the function organised for this evening.

Closing remarks at Women's Summit at Madras on 9th March, 1994.

'CHOICE' AND NOT 'CHANCE' MUST DETERMINE A WOMAN'S LIFE

We are celebrating today, the International Women's Day, with the participation of our most revered Mother Teresa, who has just released our "Policy for the Advancement of women in Tamil Nadu - Vision 2000". I have received the first copy along with her abundant good wishes and blessings.

Her loving presence among us, today, has filled the chalice of our hearts to the brim. It makes us ponder how great is our calling and how fortunate we are to be able to usher in this new policy. Henceforth we will redefine the roles of men and women.

The prayer that we have reproduced on the invitation card of this function, namely the prayer for peace, epitomizes the life of Mother Teresa herself: "Lord God, make me a channel of your peace, that where there is hatred, I may bring love; Where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness", - and so on, and concluding, "Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted; to understand than to be understood, to love than to be loved." At the Women's Summit this morning, I mentioned that it is a natural instinct and a way of life for women to share.

I have avidly read of many anecdotes in the life of our revered Mother Teresa. I wish to mention one, just one, that illustrates my principle of sharing. Someone came to Mother's place one day and said, "Mother, there is a Hindu family close by with eight children; they have not eaten for so long; do something." Mother took some cooked rice and vegetables and rushed to that family's house immediately. The children's hungry eyes began to shine as soon as they saw food. Their mother took the rice, divided it

roughly into two halves, and went out. When she came back, in a little while, Mother Teresa asked her, "where did you go, what did you do?"

And that woman gave a very simple answer: "They, our neighbours, are hungry too." And who were those neighbours? They were a Muslim family, with a large number of children.

And now, Mother Teresa thought for a moment if she should go back and bring some more rice to replace what was given away, but she decided not to do so. Mother wanted this family to enjoy deeply the joy of sharing.

Under her guidance, wherever there is sorrow and suffering, her Missionaries of Charity rush with relief, like guardian angels. Mother Teresa herself, in the face of every adversity, keeps running to trouble spots of anguish and despair, from Bhopal to Beirut, and indeed to every corner of the world. In 1984, when a poison cloud of death enveloped the City of Bhopal, because of a leak from a pesticide factory, Mother Teresa and her sisters cared for all the people there, affected by that terrible tragedy, going from centre to centre. Without suffering and sacrifice on our own part, Mother Teresa says, all our work will be mere fashionable social work and not something that really redeems and transforms us.

Back in 1982 in Beirut, when bombing and shelling was going on, Mother Teresa was there with her sisters. Her task this time was to rescue some mentally ill and handicapped children whose home was in the area of the shower of bombs and bullets.

She and her sisters braved this danger and rescued those unfortunate children, whom perhaps the rest of the world would have condemned as useless burdens. "I don't understand this",

she exclaimed at that time; "I don't understand why people put so much money and effort into killing each other. We can use all that money and effort to provide food, shelter and clothing to make the world a happier place".

Today our calling in brief, is exactly that: To make this world a happier place. The world will not be a happier place unless and until the quality of life for women improves greatly. The quality of life of women will improve only when the community respects and guarantees all the rights and freedom enshrined in the Constitution, and creates and sustains an environment congenial for their actualisation.

This is the core subject of our Summit deliberations, leading to the Statement of Policy that has been released this evening by Mother Teresa and the goal of my Government is to strengthen the full and equal participation of women in the development of our Society and State.

In the historic past women held an honoured position in Tamil Society. The great historian Prof. K.A. Neelakanda Sastri observed that the women of ancient Tamilagam enjoyed considerable privileges and that many Poetesses distinguished themselves in the literary field.

Prof. M. Varadarasanar, the eminent Tamil Scholar remarked:

> "During the period called Sangam Age, that is the period prior in the Second Century A.D., Tamil Nadu had attained a very high status in political, social and commercial spheres. A study of the literature of these days would amply prove that the women enjoyed a good deal of esteem and respect. More than thirty women poetesses flourished at various times in Ancient

> Tamilagam. In many fields women distinguished themselves along with the men to a considerable degree".

All that was however, during the Sangam Age. Later, times changed. The status of women declined in India. Men began to assert themselves and women were forced to take an inferior position. Various complex factors contributed to the decline of the status of women in India.

Independent India sought to correct this situation. The Constitution of India has provided the necessary correctives. The Constitution guarantees equality before Law, regardless of sex. Article 15 (3) of the Constitution empowers the State to make any special provision for women and children. Article 16 (2) forbids discrimination in respect of any employment of office under the State on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, etc.

Article 39 (a) of the Constitution provides rights for adequate livelihood for men and women equally. Article 39 (d) lays down equal pay for equal work both for men and women.

Although the Indian Constitution guarantees such rights, the actual position has been determined by the outlook of society with regard to the role of men and women, and this outlook has been conditioned over the millennia by religious, social, cultural and political factors.

The actual fact is that centuries of stereotyping and conditioning have eroded the self-esteem of women. If some have escaped this destiny - because of being born female - it has been more by chance than by choice. The Government of Tamil

Nadu believes that this must be reversed, to make 'choice and not chance' determine what a woman wishes to do with herself and her life.

Several steps have been initiated by the Tamil Nadu Government in the last decade for addressing the strategic concerns of women. These include assignment of surplus lands to women only; amendment of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, in its application to the State of Tamil Nadu, to confer equal rights to the daughter in Coparcenary Property and reservation in all services. Yet we have a long way to go in several areas.

The progress of women is inextricably interwoven with that of children. We in Tamil Nadu have amply recognised this and have drawn up schemes that take care of female children right from birth, saving them from the age-old evil of infanticide and helping them to get all the benefits of health and education. We have sought to provide an economic insurance to female children by introducing a special scheme of financial assistance and securities that will provide proper and congenial conditions for the up-bringing of the girl child.

These features and programmes have been incorporated in my 15-Point Programme - a Policy frame for child welfare which the Government of Tamil Nadu has enunciated recently. This Policy for the advancement of women must be considered a twin to my 15-Point Programme for the child.

With a view to providing information about the various programmes of the Government from one source, we are releasing today a *"Handbook on Government Programmes"* both in Tamil and English.

It covers adequate training in employment schemes; marriage assistance schemes; widow rehabilitation schemes; educational incentives; programmes for the aged and the handicapped; Area Development Programmes; and Programmes that take care of the health and family welfare needs of the people. These are in addition to the major schemes that are being implemented in Tamil Nadu like the World Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project; the IFAD assisted Tamil Nadu Women Development Project and the SIDA assisted Integrated Child Development Services.

We, in Tamil Nadu consider that we have already laid a secure foundation for the advancement of women by the various programmes that we are implementing. At the same time, we are of the view that we still have some way to go. We have felt the need for an integrated approach. We have found it necessary to conceive of a Policy Frame that will help, not only in the short run, but will also promote a conceptual change in our outlook towards women in the future.

That is the reason why we decided to formulate our policy for the advancement of women and the important guiding principles of this Policy will include the following:

1. Gender issues are to be treated as issues of Society, to be tackled by both men and women, as in the case of other societal issues.

2. All policies of the Government must reflect the full recognition of the equal partnership of men and women and work for realising the goal of 50% of representation of women at all levels and in all spheres.

3. In policy planning, special consideration must be given to women's multiple responsibilities and also to compensate for historic and current disadvantages experienced by them. Such consideration is also to be given to women from amongst Adi Dravida and Scheduled Tribes as well as to women living in extreme poverty, particularly in the rural areas.

4. Institutions fostering development, whether they be governmental or non-governmental, need to review their goals, structures and policies, with a view to ensuring sustained improvement in the wellbeing of women.

5. Promoting MAHAM, the Tamil Nadu Corporation for the Development of Women, as part of the institutional frame work to strengthen existing machineries involved in the advancement of women, and to ensure the convergence of services by suitably coordinating with programmes of all agencies.

We will review all legislations/policies to identify gaps, and for the incorporation of progressive 'clauses' in them. In addition, voluntary organisations and professional bodies will be involved in social campaigns against violence towards women. We will promote counselling and legal aid and encourage groups of trained personnel in these areas.

All agencies will incorporate training that responds to woman's needs and situation, for all categories of professionals (both men and women) and for this purpose, will prepare modules and materials for use.

We will activise labour inspectorates and voluntary organisations to monitor "Equal Remuneration for Equal Work" provisions; and devise special training programmes for women at

different skill levels and experience to prepare them to eventually enter into general programmes open to both men and women.

We will commission a report on the status of women in Tamil Nadu to facilitate the design of projects, by taking into account the disparities between women and men as well as women and women in different communities and in different parts of the State.

Our educationists and planners should also re-examine our normal use of language with these ends in view. UNESCO has already come out with a call for the avoidance of gender specific language. Documents, laws, articles and records should avoid writing in a manner that may reinforce questionable assumptions about sex roles.

I have dealt with some of the principles that outline our Policy for the advancement of women. I would now like to urge the various departments of the Government to incorporate these principles in specific programmes for implementation. I would like to appeal to the Press, Voluntary Agencies and leaders of public opinion, to advise us on the manner in which we may mobilise public opinion in our task of empowerment of women.

While saying all these, I do not wish to belittle the importance of women in the home or of the home for women. I do accept that it is desirable and necessary to create a Society that provides women with full opportunities to manifest and develop their potential, and that grants equal rewards for equal work. At the same time, the role of women in the home has to be given equal importance. The bringing up of children is a basic task which a mother alone can perform with satisfaction to the children.

The Mother's role in the home environment as the educator of her children in the early years of life, during which the child's character and temperament are formed, is irreplaceable. The child often absorbs with more sensitivity, the mother's teaching and training, her actions or emotions and the whole image of the human being. There is a proverb which says that "The Child is the mirror of the Mother". Institutions may conduct courses of education and may impart great knowledge to the children, but it is beyond their power to give all that the mother and the family can give.

Women's empowerment, therefore, should not involve the breaking of women's ties with their homes and their families. On the other hand, it must help to strengthen the bonds in terms of education, training and occupational opportunities. Our efforts must be to create a Society which gives opportunities to women to give the fullest expression to their natural propensity in the home and with regard to the family.

I expect that the Statement of Policy that has been released today by Mother Teresa will give us the right perspective with which to plan our actions.

I am deeply grateful to Mother Teresa and to all the dignitaries who have made it possible to attend our Summit here today. Their presence is a source of great inspiration to us.

In turn, I do hope that they will carry back with them happy memories of their stay in Madras, and of their participation in the purposeful Summit Meeting in the morning, and in this grand function this evening.

Before I conclude I would like to tell you how happy I am to have our former Chief Justice Mrs. Kandha Kumari Patnagar here with us today and I wish to thank her for her most eloquent and inspiring address and for the many kind words she uttered about our Government.

I would also like to convey my appreciation and my sincere compliments to our Minister for Social Welfare Mrs. Indira Kumari for the affords she has put in for the organisation of this function and for all the great efforts that she has undertaken over a period of more than two months to make this summit a success.

Speech delivered on the occasion of the International Women's Day Celebrations at Madras 9th March, 1994.

TAMIL NADU'S QUALITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY

I congratulate the Confederation of Indian Industry, Southern Region, for having taken the initiative of organising a Conference on "The States: Strategy for Growth", a subject of great topical importance. I am aware that the Confederation of Indian Industry has forged ahead as the Premier Representative Body of Indian Industry. I am happy that captains of Industry of the Southern states are present here today, to discuss the role of the states in Industrial growth, in the context of the liberalisation policy of the Government of India.

The new economic policy, with its emphasis on liberalisation has brought in its wake several new challenges. The first stage of the reforms,namely, delicensing and deregulation was, probably, the easier stage. The second and more difficult phase will be to create the right conditions to foster rapid growth. In addition the growth process has to be meaningful to the vast majority of our people.

The State Governments have an important role to play in the second phase, in accelerating the provision of infrastructure and in ensuring that the benefits of progress reach the masses for whom they are intended. Industrial growth must lead to more employment opportunities. The emphasis should be on creating new jobs within the country. Even Western Nations are finding it difficult to deal with problems of jobless growth. In a developing country like India, where poverty alleviation must receive the highest priority, we should give primacy to the strategy to

accelerate the provision of employment through the growth process. Therefore, in my view, we must focus on quickly building up manufacturing capability in such a manner, that facilitates the creation of jobs. May I appeal to the captains of industry, who are assembled here today, to move ahead and deepen the growth process so that the beneficial impact on employment is felt as early as possible? Without this the growth process, as part of the new economic policy, will not strike a responsive chord among the people.

I would now like to highlight some of the issues which govern the strategy for growth at the State level, keeping the Tamil Nadu context in view. Social harmony and proper maintenance of law and order are basic requirements for any growth process. In Tamil Nadu we have a perfect record in ensuring peace and tranquillity. We are confident that we will continue to maintain law and order in a perfect manner, and you can make all your investments here without the least anxiety in this regard.

A sound functioning infrastructure is an absolute minimum requirement to foster industrial growth. Secondly, the climate of industrial relations must help to build mutual confidence between industry and labour. Thirdly, the whole gamut of clearances and inspections should be streamlined, so that efficiency and a business-like approach characterise the system. Lastly, easy access to some principal factors of production should be facilitated. These are probably the four key areas where the State's contribution can count significantly in quickening the growth process.

We, in Tamil Nadu, are doing our best to build a sound infrastructure. Available indicators show that the quality of

infrastructure in Tamil Nadu is one of the best in the Country. The CMIE index gives Tamil Nadu 139 points for infrastructure, as against 100 being the all India average. We will continue to concentrate on issues such as energy, transportation, availability of water and urban infrastructure. A reference has been made to the Mandays lost during 1992. It is stated that Mandays lost is next to West Bengal. I wish to clarify that due to prolonged strike in Textile Industry, the Mandays lost in 1992 was higher and this has been set right in 1993.

Planning for energy has, in the past, been somewhat of a chicken and egg situation. It has been the practice to wait for demand to build up and then to address the issue. Our State has now chosen to take the initiative to build up new capacity in anticipation of demand. Tamil Nadu has pushed ahead with a massive energy development programme. We have taken the initiative to launch, in the associate sector, the massive Rs.7500 crore Jayankondam Lignite Power Project with a capacity of 1500 MW. In addition, we have facilitated the establishment, in the private sector, of a coal based 1000 MW power plant at Cuddalore, and a 250 MW lignite based plant at Neyveli. A gas based 300 MW power station near Nagapattinam is also being encouraged in the private sector. Similar coal based thermal power stations at North Madras and Tuticorin will be entrusted to the private sector. You will notice that, in Tamil Nadu, we have taken a calculated risk in planning ahead for a high capacity addition, with the specific intention of ensuring adequate energy availability for the foreseeable future.

We hope that the Government of India would review the situation in respect of the Koodankulam Nuclear Power Plant and the third mine cut at Neyveli, so that early starts can be made on

these projects . We have also taken the decision to participate in the Kaiga Nuclear Project. We are confident of securing a capacity addition of 5,000 MW in a period of 10 years. While power generation has been given the highest emphasis we are not ignoring the problem of the quality of power. In Tamil Nadu, a major effort to improve transmission and distribution is under way with assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

While discussing the energy issue, I would like to highlight the fact that the Southern Gas Grid is of critical importance to the Southern States. I would like to emphasise that this project has to move quickly from the drawing board to actual execution. To start with, it should be based on the surplus gas at Bombay High. The linkage to gas supply through a submarine pipeline from Oman or Iran can be viewed as an ultimate solution.

I was the first person to suggest co-financing by the Southern States in initiating this project. I do hope that the Government of India will recognise the importance of this project as the harbinger of new industrial growth in the Southern States.

A good communication net work with a well developed road system attracts industrial investment significantly. We have developed a road transportation project at a total cost of Rs.880 crores and we have posed it to the World Bank for financing. We are also planning, in association with the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited, the development of some major corridors. We are hopeful of making an early start on this project. We have taken steps to study in depth the potential of Cuddalore Port, from the point of view of increased coal handling as well as hinterland development.

Ensuring adequate availability of water for industry has posed a major challenge in Tamil Nadu. We are confident that the Krishna Water Scheme and the new Veeranam Project will be implemented in 1995. I am sure these massive projects will help to permanently resolve the water shortage situation in the Madras Metropolitan area.

We anticipate that industries in the Madras area will benefit from the abundant ground water supplies released, once these projects become operational. Major water supply schemes for Coimbatore, Salem and Madurai will be completed in 1994. I am happy to record that my suggestion to industry to use secondary treated sewage water has been well received and projects are underway. This trend needs to be accelerated.

I am also happy to announce a joint sector initiative to establish a desalination project, to supplement the water availability in the Manali area. Tamil Nadu has thus moved ahead with a major investment plan which should resolve the chronic water shortages of the past.

We have placed special emphasis on developing urban infrastructure. The Madras Vision - 2000, project with an investment of Rs.4,000 crores, is designed to make Madras the most favoured Metro destination. We have placed emphasis on creating the necessary urban infrastructure in 10 major towns.

The second substantive issue I would like to cover is the Industrial relations environment. We shall seek to foster a culture where downsizing and reengineering together do not constitute an end by themselves, but eventually promote new employment opportunities that follow investment in technology upgradation. I am hopeful that your Confederation will help to identify specific

areas and focus on employment oriented growth. This will be essential to ensure peaceful industrial relations. This could render redundant any need for a formal exit policy. A vibrant job market with easy mobility is the right answer. Our approach to industrial relations has been greatly appreciated. We shall continue to foster a culture of healthy industrial relations in our State.

Industrialists have spoken to me of the need to quicken clearances. We have taken the initiative to constitute GUIDANCE as an escort agency, so that there is easy access and quick clearance. We have already given executive instructions to operate the single window concept. We hope to put this on a statutory footing soon. Simultaneously, a core group consisting of the Industries and Energy departments and the TNEB will be constituted, to monitor and ensure the speedy clearance of new applications for power connections.

In addition, you may be aware that we have gone ahead boldly to develop Industrial growth centres to tackle this issue. Growth Centres at Gangaikondan near Tirunelveli, Perundurai near Erode, Nilakottai near Madurai and Bargur in Dharmapuri are ready to take off. We have now planned a massive new growth centre near Madras. Developed land, properly serviced, will not be a constraint in Tamil Nadu.

The State specific industrial policy which I set forth in 1992, covers the full range of incentives and the taxation policy we have adopted. Tamil Nadu offers a truly attractive package of incentives to foster industrial development. This package is acknowledged as among the best in the country. We have a splendid record of delivering promptly on what is promised, whether it be capital subsidy or any other incentives. We have set in motion a clear policy of tax reform.

In the last two State Budgets we have taken significant strides forward in tax reform. The tax structure has been properly codified and is now quite transparent. The Sales Tax rate structure has been greatly simplified with just 5 common rates. Despite serious revenue implications, we have gone ahead boldly in eliminating cascading by extending to a wide range of goods concessional treatment meant for raw materials. Please understand that this reform process has been undertaken despite the extremely difficult fiscal situation we are facing. Our tax reform package has been widely appreciated. We keep an open mind in pushing further the tax reform process.

In Tamil Nadu, I do not see any serious factor inhibiting growth. I understand that some laws and regulations like the Urban Land Ceiling Act are regarded as anti-growth by industry.

I feel that if we can ensure rapid expansion of employment opportunities, we should not be blinkered in our vision, holding on to concepts which are shopworn. At the same time, industry will have to be conscious of its social debt, as for example, in conforming to environmental regulations. The reform process also calls for a mature and responsible response from industry.

We will take speedy action to give a concrete shape to our Madras Industrial Park Project. We are sure that the Madras Industrial Park will stimulate the economy of our State, and help to bring global technology and finance to our door-steps. I do hope the Government of India would appreciate the uniqueness of this project and give it all the help that we have been asking for.

I wish to conclude by saying that it shall be our joint endeavour to work out a forward looking strategy for rapid and meaningful growth in our State.

Some suggestions have been putforth by Mr. Godrej and Mr. Sheshasayee. I wish to assure you that we will keep all your suggestions in mind, in particular a remark was made that Tamil Nadu should aim at being a global player and not domestic player. That is precisely our aim and intention. Reference was also made that the Punjab Chief Minister having made spontaneous donation to the Regional Head Office of the Confederation being setup in Punjab. I wish to assure you that eventhough I am quite sure that the confederation of Indian Industry not lacking in finance, if you do come forward to setup your Regional office at Madras we shall be happy to give you any assistance that you may wish for and though I would not like to specify that how much now, I would like to tell you we can offer you much more than the Punjab Chief Minister.

I express the hope that you will have meaningful deliberations which will focus on the key areas which are relevant, to impart speed and momentum to the growth process in Tamil Nadu in particular.

I am happy to announce that Tamil Nadu Government will contribute a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs for the Regional office of the confederation of Indian Industry at Madras.

Speech delivered at the Confederation of Indian Industry's Southern Region's 20th Annual Meeting on 13th April, 1994.

TAMIL NADU BELIEVES IN GROWTH WITH SENSITIVE CARING FOR THE POOR

At the outset may I extend a cordial welcome to you, to Tamil Nadu? We shall ensure that your brief visit to the State is comfortable. We are keen to have meaningful discussions on various aspects, poised as we are, at a critical juncture, in the evolving tapestry of Centre-State fiscal relations. I have every hope that, under the distinguished leadership of Shri K.C. Pantji, justice will be done to the States. We have already presented to you our Memorandum, detailed forecast, information on various points, and a separate report on our requirements for the upgradation of administration.

As a backgroud to our discussions, I would like to briefly highlight some of the key indicators relating to Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is one of the most densely populated States. With just 4% of the land area, it accounts for nearly 7% of the population. The urban population in the States as a percentage of total population, is the third highest in the country. The State has an unemployment rate of 9.52% which is among the highest in the country. The Expert Group of the Union Planning Commission has estimated the proportion of the poor in the State in the year 1987-88 at 45.13%, which is one of the highest in the Country. The State's water resources are almost totally exhausted. It has to depend on distant coal and steel supplies. It suffers from a comparative disadvantage in the Indian common market. While these are major handicaps, posing a severe developmental challenge, we have cause to be proud of our achievement in population limitation. Tamil Nadu is next only to Kerala in achieving the lowest population growth rate in the decade 1981-1991. Our achievements in the social sectors are well-known. Despite the

several fiscal difficulties we have had to face, Tamil Nadu has established an excellent track record in the recent past, exceeding the approved plan outlay in each of the three years from 1991-92 to 1993-94. At the same time, we have not compromised on the effectiveness of the social safety net we have provided for the poor. We have, no doubt, had to face severe fiscal challenges, but we do believe that our blend of growth with sensitive caring for the concerns of the poor is probably the ideal model.

It is well recognised that the States have been confronted by a very disturbing fiscal situation in the Nineties. Several causative factors have been behind this overall trend. The recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission have gone awry, as inflation has been far beyond the levels projected. This has left the States in a very vulnerable fiscal situation. Following the new economic policy, there has been a marked shift in the division of responsibilities, with a clear tilt towards the States, it is now well accepted that it is in the social sectors that the Government should concentrate its role. Traditionally the social sectors have been largely the sphere of the States. Thirdly, the effect of the stabilization and structural adjustment programmes have been passed on to the States, where the adjustment is much more difficult, as the States are that much more in direct contact with the public. The lack of adequate buoyancy in vertical transfers to the States is yet another cause for disquiet. I have chosen to highlight the overall fiscal position of the States as, more than ever before, your deliberations will have to be governed by a far sighted vision of the future, where the States are fiscally empowered, commensurate with their increased responsibilities.

I am aware that we have to work within the hard realities of the fiscal position of the Centre and the States taken together. However, the Tenth Finance Commission will have to take note of the total stagnation in the scheme of vertical transfers, between the Centre and the States, for more than a decade. We have shown in our Memorandum how the total transfers to the States, based on the recommendations of the Finance Commissions, have stagnated at 25% of the total tax revenues of the Centre. There is absolutely no truth in the position that the Centre's worsening situation is due to the increased transfers to the States. I would like to refer, in particular, to the share of the States in Basic Excise Duties. This has remained at 40% since the recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission. No doubt, the Eighth Finance Commission added 5% but allocated it exclusively to the deficit States. What is worse, the Ninth Finance Commission expanded the exclusive allocation to the deficit States from 5% to 7.475%, and reduced the allocation to all States from 40% to 37.525%. This has made the position of many States most vulnerable. With the background I have highlighted, may I suggest that the share of States in basic excise duties be stepped upto 60% from the present level of 45%, and no exclusive allocation for deficit States need be made? We are at that point in history, when a quantum jump in vertical transfers to the States has to be made. It is my considered view that the Tenth Finance Commission will have to take this far reaching decision, if the States are to avert fiscal chaos in the latter half of the Nineties. May I also venture to suggest that, as a measure to enable the Centre to adjust to the increased transfer, the share of the States can be increased to 52.5% from 45% in the first two years, that is between 1995-97, and then moved up to 60% in the last three years between 1997-2000?

I would now like to turn to certain other aspects of vertical transfers to the States. In our Memorandum, we have accepted the position that the share of the States in Income Tax cannot perhaps go beyond 85%, as at present. What is important is to realise the full potential under this tax, following the report of the Tax Reforms Committee which has identified substantial potential under this tax. The States remain most aggreived that Corporation Tax has still not been made shareable. This is despite specific suggestions by previous Finance Commissions, and a categorical recommendation by the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations, that the Corporation tax be made shareable. I had raised this issue in the Southern Zonal Council meeting held at Madras in November 1992, when the Union Home Minister indicated that this was a matter for the Finance Commission. In the context of the new economic policy, rapid urbanisation, export promotion, and the increasing pressure on the States to provide sound infrastructure, it is imperative that the States get a share in the Corporation tax. May I suggest a specific recommendation by the Tenth Finance Commission, that 20% of Corporation Tax be given to the States?

While dwelling on vertical transfers to the States, I would like to highlight the need for a thoroughgoing review of the potential under Articles 268 and 269 of the Constitution. Our detailed views on the possibilities of strengthening the State's resources position, through better mobilisation under Articles 268 & 269 have been given in our Memorandum. I would also like to highlight the need for immediately implementing the consignment tax, as already agreed upon in the conference of Chief Ministers in February 1989, presided over by the late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. A conference of State Finance Ministers presided over by the Union Finance Minister, has been held on 27th May, 1994, to

consider this question. In my view, considering the overall fiscal context, it is imperative that the consignment tax is brought into force without any further delay. I would also like to draw attention to the need to step up the annual grant, in lieu of the tax on railway passenger fares, to Rs.750 crores, based on the detailed calculations we have set out in our Memorandum.

I have dwelt at length on the need for a significant step up in the vertical transfers. I wish to reiterate that this would be the only certain way to empower the States to face the latter half of the Nineties with dignity and composure. I shall now turn to the principles which should govern the distribution between States. Our Memorandum setting out our detailed views on this issue is already with you. I would only like to highlight some of our main concerns. In our view, the main factors which should govern the horizontal distribution should be the 1971 population, urban population, per capita State Domestic Product (SDP) or poverty percentages worked out by the Expert Group, applied to the 1971 population, composite index of backwardness as determined by the Ninth Finance Commission and tax effort. It is absolutely essential that States like Tamil Nadu, which have done well in population limitation, are not penalised. To do so, it is essential to adopt only the 1971 population as prescribed in the terms of reference. I am also of the view that the 1971 population should be used in deriving the per capita SDP, if it is to be used in the distribution formula. An alternative to using per capita SDP would be the poverty percentages, as set out in the report of the Expert Group 1992, as applied to the 1971 population. It will be a good idea to directly address the poverty issue. There is a specific case for utilising urban population as an indicator in the distribution formula. In the case of income tax, urban population at 10% can replace the 10% weight for contribution. You will be visiting some

of the problem slum areas tomorrow. The externalities associated with urban areas have to be recognized by extending a weight to urban population. Tamil Nadu has a splendid tax effort record. The tax - SDP ratio of Tamil Nadu is easily among the highest in the Country. In recognising the tax effort, the State Excise revenue needs to be excluded, to be fair to States which have implemented Prohibition. I have no doubt that the progressive suggestions we have made will strike a responsive chord in your final deliberations, when the distribution formulae are set out.

I would now like to briefly refer to the question of Additional Excise Duties. As you are no doubt aware, a specific proposal to implement a State Value Added Tax is under consideration involving, among other issues, the withdrawal of additional excise duties and giving the power to the States to levy value added tax on these commodities. It is now quite evident that if the power to tax is returned to the States, the yield would be higher. When this new proposal is under consideration, it is even more appropriate that the entire yield from additional excise duties is given to the States, on the basis of contribution, and no redistribution should be attempted. The most suitable proxy to determine the contribution would be the States' sales tax collections. It is also necessary to point out that the Ninth Finance Commission, while employing population as a factor in the distribution of additional excise duties, erred in using the 1981 population. If population is to be used at all, it has to be only the 1971 population.

I would now like to turn to the specific situation faced by Tamil Nadu in the period 1995-2000. I would like to highlight the fact that, contrary to the projections of the Ninth Finance Commission, Tamil Nadu has had to contend with post-devolution deficits in the Nineties. Our forecast indicates a staggering pre-devolution deficit

in the forecast period 1995-2000. Even with a scheme of vertical transfers and horizontal distribution as I have set out, Tamil Nadu will have to contend with a massive post-devolution deficit. It is essential that this position is recognized and our recommendations enable Tamil Nadu to meet the fiscal challenge of the latter half of the Nineties.

We have had to contend with an unenviable revenue account deficit since we assumed office in 1991-92. It has been a Sisyphean struggle with no respite. Tamil Nadu is confronted with one of the largest revenue deficits amongst all States. We have made valiant all round efforts to bring the situation under control and roll back the revenue deficit. It will take us some more time to put through the adjustment process. Until such time as we are able to fully do so, Tamil Nadu will have to be supported through grants. May I suggest that you extend to Tamil Nadu the benefit of your best consideration, in tiding over this difficult fiscal situation? I wish to emphasise that this difficult fiscal situation is with us, despite our extraordinary effort to mobilize new resources and the prudent expenditure policy we have followed. Support in the form of a gap grant will be essential for the State to face the future.

One difficult issue which has to be addressed is the fact that the Eighth Plan would come to an end by 1996-97 and a new five year plan would be launched with effect from 1997-98. In our view, the committed liability on account of plan schemes in the revenue account would need to be taken note of. We are also anxious that new tax effort which is undertaken by the State is wholly earmarked to finance the plan, and should not be assumed, to finance the non plan expenditure. We have assumed, based on our reading of the terms of reference, that the Finance

Commission would concentrate on the non plan revenue account, leaving the Planning Commission to undertake the plan financing. It will be useful if the thinking of the Commission, in dealing with the plan revenue component, is spelt out clearly during these discussions.

I would like to draw specific attention to the question of a special grant to cover the loss on account of Prohibition. The Ninth Finance Commission did not do enough in merely marking down the revenues. The scheme of compensation of the loss on account of Prohibition has also been discontinued by the Government of India. With the Centre having withdrawn its scheme, it is but appropriate that a specific scheme of compensation is evolved by the Tenth Finance Commission. We have set out our detailed views on this issue in our memorandum. At least 50 per cent of the estimated loss of revenue should be compensated by a specific grant. May I appeal to you to take a fair and just view about this issue?

I would caution against any arbitrary views on the discontinuance of subsidies. While I agree that in the medium term, given the fiscal imperatives, we have to be cautious about subsidies, there can be no abrupt change or roll back. I have already highlighted how much more difficult it is for the States to cut back subsidies, as they are that much closer to the people. Our policiy is to hold the absolute level of subsidies at the current level. May I suggest that this approach be endorsed as the only pragmatic and realistic approach? Even this would call for skilful and adroit management, taxing all our skills.

Under your terms of reference, you are obliged to keep in mind the need for ensuring reasonable returns on various investments by the States. I would like to draw specific attention to the position

of the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board (TNEB). We are forced to extend a compensatory subsidy to the TNEB, to meet the extra cost of transporting coal from distant Eastern coal fields, by a complicated rail cum sea cum rail route, to the thermal plants in the State. The TNEB's average per unit realisation from the sale of energy is among the highest in the Country. The performance parameters of the Board's thermal plants have received all India acclaim. At one time, freight subsidies were extended to cover the increased transportation costs. These have been withdrawn. In a common market, Tamil Nadu is left with a comparative disadvantage. The subsidy extended, only attempts to neutrailise this disadvantage to some extent. Conscious of the overall fiscal situation, we have decided to hold the absolute level of the subsidy at the current level. Given this commitment on our part, I should think the Finance Commission will allow this level of subsidy in the State's forecast. We are, of course, ensuring a real and effective cash return on the State's investment in the TNEB, through an electricity tax paid by the Board.

In the case of the Transport Corporations, we do not extend any subsidy to cover losses. We do, of course, cover the cost of concessional travel, in respect of a few categories. The operational parameters of the State's Bus Transport Corporations are among the best in the country. This has enabled us to extend the best service at the lowest fares. The repeated increases in the administered price of diesel have, however, posed a very difficult situation. This has been a direct consequence of the adjustment process. We have had to revise fares in December 1993, but a further diesel price hike in February 1994, has again posed a new problem. It will take us considerable time to tide over these repeated cost increases. It would not be realistic in this situation to assume financial returns in what is an essential service for the common man.

As for other public sector undertakings, it shall be our policy to ensure that there is no budgetary support to cover losses. Most of these Corporations are promotional corporations, and it will not be realistic to assume financial returns from these Corporations.

I shall now turn to another aspect relating to the State's expenditure in the forecast period. We have provided detailed estimates of fresh expenditure. Included in this are revisions of dearness allowance, and other items like the revision of house rent allowance, which have already been implemented since cut off date of 1st January 1992, set by the Commission. These items will have to be taken note of, in the expenditure forecast, as items already committed upon. In addition, I wish to bring to your specific notice that, based on the Central pattern, we have already extended an interim relief of Rs.100 per month to our employees, pending the next pay revision. Our pay scales are on par with the Central pay scales, and the next pay revision will be alongside the Central Pay revision. The full commitment on account of the future pay revision will have to be taken into account, as part of our expenditure forecast. We have provided full details of fresh expenditure, giving only those items on which there appears no choice. These have to be allowed in full, if the forecast is to be realistic.

Under the terms of reference, you are required to consider the requirements of the States for modernisation of administration. We have made detailed submissions covering various aspects, involving a total requirement of Rs.3,448 crore in the forecast period. As you are aware, we have taken special efforts to modernise the State Police Force, and make it an efficient and humane force. Our projections to modernise the Police Force involve a total outlay of Rs.427 crore. Based on certain recent

decisions that we have taken, we would need a further sum of Rs.70 crore to provide a Coastal Security System, a Highway Patrol System and a Police Checkpost System on the highways. Our total requirement is thus Rs.500 crore. Besides this we would need Rs.240 crore for Police Housing. I wish to emphasise that, considering the situation that had developed in Punjab and the situation now in Kashmir, it is better to take advance preventive action. Tamil Nadu has had to contend with an equally serious problem posed by foreign extremists. We have had signal success so far in rooting out this threat. We have done this on our own. Our efforts have to be supported. May I request a special problem grant to cover the costs of Police Modernisation? It will be useful if this grant is provided outside the general scheme, so that it is actually available each year for the specific purpose. We have made detailed submissions, on various aspects of modernisation of the administrations, which I hope will merit your best consideration.

I have been greatly pained by the inadequacy of the existing arrangements to provide for relief expenditure in the event of natural calamities. Tamil Nadu has been repeatedly devastated by cyclones and floods. At the same time we had several districts affected by drought. What is worse, Madras City had to go through one of the worst water scarcity situations in 1993. This has meant an impossible burden on the State. Our recent experience has thus been quite traumatic, with the Calamity Relief Fund arrangement being totally inadequate. We have made detailed suggestions on the computation of the contributions to the Calamity Relief Fund. These have to be constantly updated for changes in price levels. May I suggest that a forward looking scheme be evolved, which covers the requirement of a State like Tamil Nadu? Following the repeated devastation of our coastal

areas, we had submitted a detailed project report to the World Bank for Rs.2500 crore. Unfortunately, while World Bank assistance has been facilitated in the case of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu has not received any special support. May I therefore suggest the constitution of a National Calamity Fund, based on annual contribution by the Centre? This Fund should extend special support when a calamity of unusual severity is experienced.

The debt burden of the States has assumed alarming proportions. Tamil Nadu has registered one of the fastest increases in the interest burden. We are deeply concerned that, in the near future, the net flows could turn negative. The Ninth Finance Commission's recommendations on debt relief were very nominal. The hardening of the terms of new debt has accentuated the problem. With the pronounced shift towards social sectors where financial returns are not easily possible, it is necessary that the loan grant mix of Central Plan assistance is made 50:50, instead of 70:30 as at present. Small Savings loans should be treated as loans in perpetuity, and 90% of the net amount of collections should be given to the States as loan. These changes will only give some relief in the future. The problems posed by the existing debt can be addresed by writing off 50% of the existing debt due to the Centre, as on 31st March, 1995. The Tenth Finance Commission will have to make path breaking recommendations in extending substantial debt relief to the States.

I have spelt out our views on the main issues before the Tenth Finance Commission. It is my considered view that the Tenth Finance Commssion would have to take a bold and imaginative stand, in specifying the vertical transfers to the States. The States

have been finding themselves adrift in a sea of fiscal turmoil, and have been awaiting eagerly the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commssion for succor. I have every hope that, under your distinguished leadership, the States will get full justice. We do hope that, in developing a scheme of vertical transfers and horizontal sharing, the Tenth Finance Commission will further embellish the principles of equity, adequacy, elasticity and certainty, that should govern Centre-State fiscal relations. Adjustment has to be undertaken with a human face, and this is particularly relevant at the State level, in a federal polity like ours. It is now left exclusively to the Finance Commission, to provide the States with the wherewithal to face up to the adjustment process. We are fully conscious of our fiscal responsibilities, and we are taking every effort to adjust to the new situation. It will take us time. It is in this interregnum that the States should be empowered to face the fiscal challenges of the future.

The speech delivered at the meeting of the 10th Finance Commission at Secretariat, Madras on 30th May, 1994.

TAMIL NADU SUCCESSFUL IN PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF THE POOR BY PREVENTING ANY EROSION IN SOCIAL SERVICES

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Tenth Finance Commission for highlighting a few issues where action can be taken to improve the State's finances. I would like to respond to some of the points.

I agree that a stronger effort should be made to increase non-tax revenues. We have on our part taken action to increase the revenues under various items like forest produce, minerals, agricultural services and so on. It is not at all easy to improve the recoveries under the social sectors. We have made a tremendous effort in the last two years to step up the revenues from higher education. Some of the rate revisions have even been of the order of 6 to 7 times. You will agree that this is a tremendous effort. We have to keep in force a good scheme of scholarships keeping in mind our policies on reservations. The bulk of the costs are of course accounted for by school education where recoveries are practically impossible. Even here we are trying to attempt special fees which will cover at least improvement costs. It is not at all easy to improve the receipts from medical services. We plan to make a major effort to secure better receipts. This will have to go along with qualitative improvements. This will necessarily take time and we should not make unrealistic assumptions about the revenues which can be realised.

On interest receipts it is my considered view that a realistic assumption should be made. In the case of Tamil Nadu we are willing to go along with the prescription that at least 3% on a total amount of Rs.2700 crores being the outstanding loan will be realised each year during the forecast period. This is an optimistic assumption given the fact most of these loans have been utilised for non financial return investments. The assumption of 3% is high considering the past trends. We have in fact been treating the interest dues from the Electricity Board in the past as subsidy. We shall still make an effort to realise 3% on the gross outstandings which is the best we can do.

I have already dealt with in detail in my opening remarks the position relating to State Transport Corporations and the Electricity Board. Reference has been made to the situation relating to irrigation works and the need to increase the revenues. I wish to highlight the fact that a proper computation of the revenues relating to irrigation should also include certain indirect levies. In Tamil Nadu we levy local cess and local cess surcharge. These rates have been doubled with effect from 1992. From incremental revenue we have allocated a substantial portion for irrigation. In addition, we levy higher rates of purchase tax compared to other States on water consuming crops like sugarcane. If you take note of these levies it is seen that we are broadly covering the entire operation and maintenance costs even at present in respect of our irrigation works. In addition, it is planned to hand over maintenance progressively to Farmers Associations. These Associations will meet the incremental maintenance costs. As a result incremental maintenance costs would be shared by the farmer progressively. We have tried this

in a few pilot schemes. We intend to broad base these experiments. I am sure the Tenth Finance Commission will appreciate the steps taken to correct the position relating to irrigation revenues.

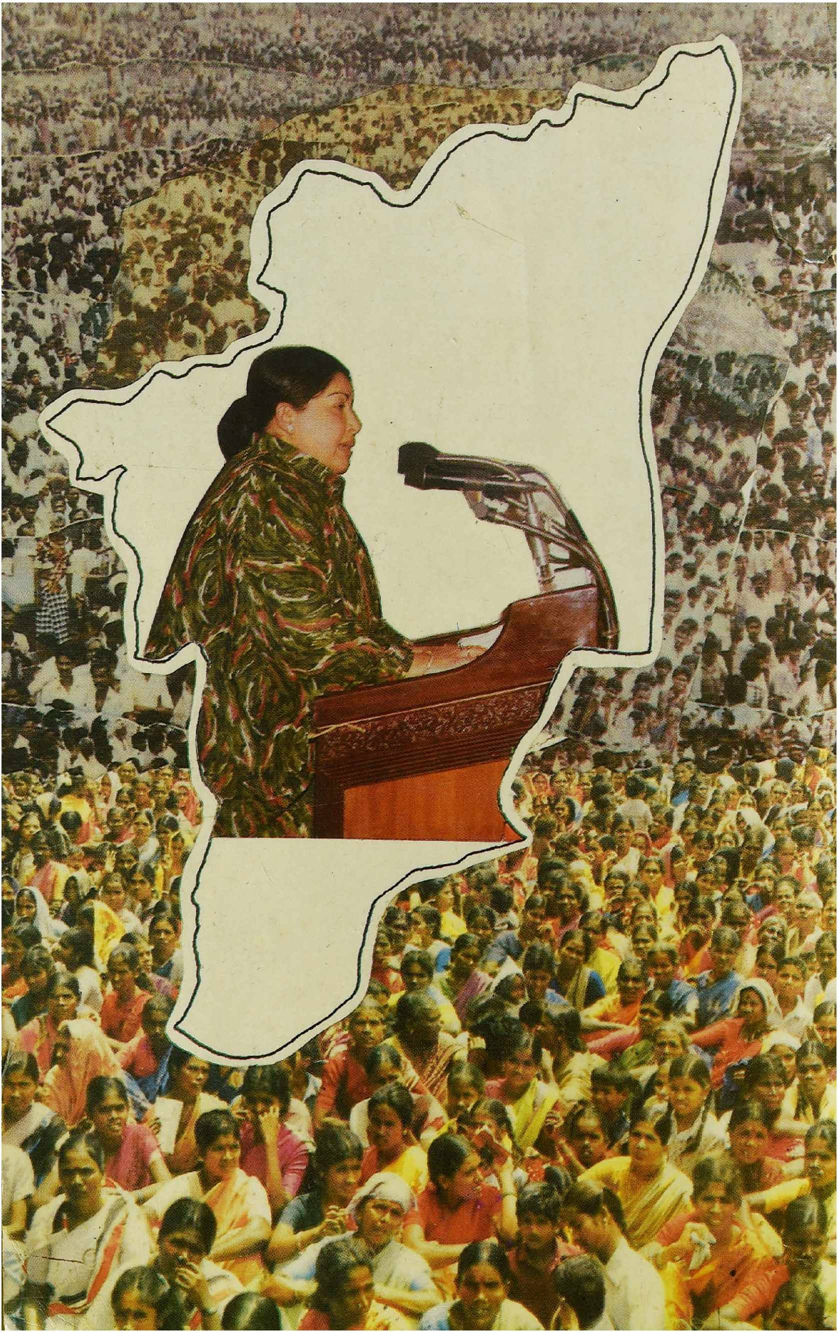
I have already referred to the debt situation and put forth the case for substantial relief. I appreciate the Chairman's concern about the mounting debt situation. Even so I wish to highlight the fact that some States have withstood the pressure to cut back on essential social services only by taking the bold and imaginative step of a short term recourse to additional debt. I wish to draw specific attention to several recent studies made by the Reserve Bank of India and also to certain features in economic journals which indicate that Tamil Nadu has been one of the very few States which have successfully protected the interests of the poor by preventing any erosion in the social services. It is true that we have had to resort to additional debt to finance such essential current expenditure. We agree that in the medium term other corrections will have to be made, but we do not foresee extreme difficulty provided we get the essential support from the Finance Commission and inflation is reined, in future. At the same time the immediate situation relating to the debt position needs to be tackled. May I plead once again for a far reaching debt relief package by the Tenth Finance Commission?

I share the concern about the mounting salary bill and the increase in the share being spent on salaries. This increase in the case of Tamil Nadu has occurred because of the correction of pay scales on par with Central pay scales which has occurred during this period. In addition, the mounting dearness allowance bill due to the higher inflation rates has also been responsible. We have

taken definite steps to control this trend. Our emphasis has been to use existing employees for additional work. We have done this through a systematic process of Zero Base budgeting, redeploying existing personnel for new work. We have brought in a new emphasis on productivity. Obviously, the effort will have to be spread over a long period and will have to be systematic. We have taken the necessary steps.

I have noted the points made relating to non-plan revenue expenditure. I agree that in the case of Tamil Nadu the higher than normal average annual increase on non-plan revenue expenditure over the period 1986-92 has been a cause of concern. We find that the main contributory elements have been interest payments and pensions over which we do not have much control. In addition, the major salary correction that was undertaken has also contributed to the higher than normal trend in the past. However you will note that we have brought down the rate of growth of non-plan revenue expenditure after we assumed office in 1991. The non-plan revenue expenditure we have budgeted in Budget Estimates 1994-95 over the Revised Estimates 1993-94 shows an increase of just 8.13%. In fact we have been successful in slowing down the growth rate of non-plan revenue expenditure since we assumed office in 1991-92. It has not been an easy task and has been achieved despite severe odds.

I would like to draw attention to a point which has been made about the increased emphasis on current account expenditure in Tamil Nadu's plan. In fact there is no need to be apolegetic about the higher revenue account plan if it is used usefully in the social sectors. Even so, we have taken note of the overall fiscal trend and the need to secure better financial returns. You will be happy

to know that in the last two years we have shifted the emphasis towards the capital account. We have been able to record a remarkable shift in 1994-95. The earlier level of the capital account plan which had been hovering around 50% has now been stepped up to 60%. You will agree that this is a significant improvement in the direction which you have highlighted.

Reply to the 10th Finance Commission's remarks on 30th May, 1994.